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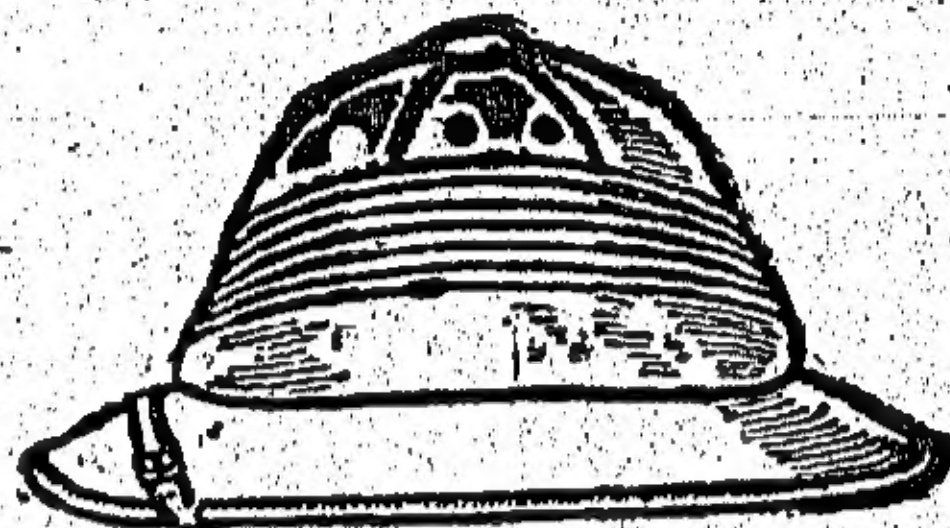
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[28-3]

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[1971]

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TO-NIGHT!!

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Tickets \$3 at ROBINSON'S and at the Door.

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[1972]

PEKING NOTES

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, April 29th

THE PREMIER'S TRIP.

Political talk this week has the Premier's trip as its theme. This does not mean that the Japanese-Chinese negotiations are forgotten. Far from it. But nothing new has transpired regarding the latter, while Tuan Chi-jui's movements are full of daily interest and pregnant with innumerable possibilities for peace or war. Ostensibly, the Premier's journey from the capital to Hankow was undertaken in order to encourage the generals and the troops fighting the rebels in Hunan, but it may be presumed that the difference of opinion which had become increasingly noticeable amongst the leaders of the Northern military faction supplied another very good reason. Reports received in Peking during the week would indicate that Tuan has met with some success. He has encouraged and sympathized with the troops, and he seems to have reached an understanding with Generals Tiao and Chang, but, instead of returning direct to Peking as planned, he proceeded to Kiukiang, where he had an interview with General Cheng Kuang-yuan, and subsequently visited the Kiangsu Tschun, Li Shun, whose former "independent" inclinations are not forgotten. Apparently, it is the intention of the Premier to remove all differences in the party and make certain of the support of the men necessary for the maintenance of his Cabinet and the execution of his policy. At this stage it would be unwise to offer any comment, and hazardous to make any prophecy. We must wait and see.

THE JAPANESE NEGOTIATIONS.

The volume of newspaper comment and protest on the subject of the Japanese negotiations increases. Public suspicion cannot be lulled by official denials or Japanese statements. Frankly, the people fear the worst, that is those who take an interest in public affairs, but truth compels us to realize that the mass of indifference is overwhelming, while foreign opinion is inclining to the view that if the Japanese can introduce a measure of efficiency into the administration of this great country it would be short-sighted to oppose them and selfish to urge them not to take occasion by the hand.

No new development has been reported. The exchange of communications is proceeding—perhaps not speedily, but still with no apparent possibility of a *contratemp*.

Baron Sakatani, whose visit to Peking may or may not be associated with the negotiations, has left for the South to investigate conditions and complete his survey.

THE MILITARY SITUATION.

There has been no slackening in the prosecution of the campaign against the rebels. True, Lung Chi-kung is not in a position to report victories, but it is confidently expected that success will reach him in time. The pressure on Kwangtung from Fukien and Kiangsi may automatically relieve him, while the continued advance of the Government forces in Hunan, bringing the Northern soldiers nearer to rebel territory, cannot but exercise some effect on the Southern warriors. The capture of Hengshan and Hengyang on April 21st, after stubborn fighting marks substantial progress, and ought to hearten the Northern armies. Meanwhile, all kinds of advice and suggestions are addressed to men of both parties, but peace is apparently not yet in sight. The Premier has declined to see the great Mr. Little.

PREMIUM BONDS.

Considerable interest was shown in the fourth prize-drawing of the Hsin Hua Premium Bonds. These bonds should have been redeemed this year, but the necessary funds not being available, it was agreed to continue the prize drawing for another year, a procedure which met with no opposition. A large crowd witnessed the drawing on Thursday, which lasted all day, and excitement was maintained in characteristic Chinese style. The first and fifth prizes went to Kweichow, the second to Honan, the third to Peking, and the fourth to Kalgan.

MR. KYLS RELEASED.

After being held by brigands for nearly two months, Mr. Kyles was released yesterday morning and expects to return to Peking. The conditions under which his

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

BARON SAKATANI'S ADVICE TO CHINA.

THE NEED OF CONSTRUCTIVE REFORM.

Baron Sakatani, who refused to become China's financial adviser without executive powers, left Peking for Hankow on April 25th, in order to make a tour through the southern provinces. Before his departure, he informed a representative of a Peking paper of his impressions of the capital, in the following words:—"I notice that immense progress has been made in the appearance of roads, that is, in comparison with what I heard to be the case in former years. Improved waterworks and drain systems have been introduced. If further effort is made on these lines, Peking will soon become worthy of being the capital of this great Republic. The capital is the brain of a country. It is not only looked up to by the whole home country, but it also has certain effect upon the feelings of foreigners. Thus the honour and prestige of a country is somewhat dependent upon the appearance of its capital. The palaces, the parks, the Temple of Heaven, the city-wall and other structures of this description are, I believe, monumental evidence of the greatness of China's civilization. The Chinese citizens should show their respect to this ancient architecture by ensuring its permanent preservation without delay.

Baron Sakatani also spoke feelingly and gratefully of the cordiality and genuine friendliness with which he had been welcomed by the officials as well as by other classes of Chinese. He said the sincere regards would form the best foundation upon which to base a peaceful and glorious alliance between China and Japan.

"What I cannot but view with regret is the incessant internecine war, the unstable political government, the non-promulgation of a permanent constitution, the imperfection in the systems of communications, the lack of development in educational, industrial and commercial activities, the balance of the national budget on the wrong side, too numerous foreign loans, the unhealthy condition of the banking system, the depreciation in the value of bank-notes, the chaotic state of the currency system, and the need of reform in the collection of land and other taxes."

Baron Sakatani then said that it was always easy to achieve any destructive work, but it would require all our energy and perseverance to reach success in constructive matters. Therefore, he earnestly hoped that all Chinese, patriotic at heart, would bury their little differences and unite together to attain the one great object. He quoted several appropriate sayings of the great Confucius to show how important it is for a people to be truthful in words and honest in conduct, without which nothing can be successfully done.

SPORT.

GOLF.

CAPTAIN'S CUP FOR LADIES.

The Captain's Cup Competition will be played by the ladies' section of the Royal Hongkong Golf Club from the 2nd Monday till the following Saturday (inclusive) of each month during the summer.

Liberation was secured have not yet been learned, but it is understood that they include the incorporation of the bandit leaders in the Chinese Army. Is it any wonder the Chinese Army, recruited in such a manner, is not the first occasion on which brigand chiefs have been induced to abandon their unlawful pursuits for a lawful occupation—has become a danger to the country? The two American lady missionaries captured in Shantung were rescued by soldiers. It is indeed time that something was done to end the general lawlessness which prevails throughout the provinces. If the Chinese cannot do it themselves others will have to interfere. China's position is ridiculous, nay humiliating. Think of *Entente* nations, with whom China has joined in declaring war on Germany, having to maintain warships in Chinese waters for the protection of their nationals. Obviously the first and most immediate assistance China can render to the Allies is to put her house in order.

The *North China Star* is the title of a new daily paper to be published in Tientsin under American auspices. This luminary will be controlled by Dr. C. J. Fox, professor of political science, who is not without journalistic experience, and his assistant will be G. E. Sokolsky, who has just come to China from Petrograd, where he was assistant editor of a British paper. The new enterprise will be launched in June.

Peking has enjoyed more than usual entertainment this week. The Union Philharmonic gave a very successful concert in the Wagons Lits Hotel on Wednesday evening, the performance ranking as one of the best they have ever given. Last night another orchestral concert took place in the Y.M.C.A. auditorium and was well attended. Under the auspices of the Anglo-Chinese Friendship Society, Captain Hawkins, of the Chinese Labour Corps, lectured on the excellent work done behind the lines in France by the Chinese. His address, which was illustrated with lantern slides, was greatly appreciated on both occasions, the first in the theatre of the British Legation and the second in the Y.M.C.A.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

ALLEGED KIDNAPPING.

A Chinese was charged with kidnapping a little boy from the custody of his parents at No. 8, Tung Street.

Mr. A. M. Preston applied for a remand, and this was granted by Mr. J. R. Wood, who fixed the case for Thursday, at 10 a.m.

AN OLD WOMAN'S TALE.

An old Chinese woman was charged with hawking eggs without a permit.

Defendant pleaded poverty, stating that she was a widow of 72 and had no son to support her. She had one daughter married, who was living in the country, but she was a bad daughter.

Mr. Dyer Ball discharged defendant with a caution.

DISOBEYING A BANISHMENT ORDER.

An old Chinese man was charged with returning from banishment.

Defendant had been banished on two occasions—first, for two years; and second, for ten years. He had previous convictions against him for theft.

Mr. J. R. Wood sentenced defendant to twelve months' hard labour.

A HEAVY BAIL.

A Chinese was charged with conspiring with another Chinese to obtain seven Chinese curios, valued at \$8,330, and a diamond ring valued at \$1,330.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. E. Davidson for the defence.

The prosecution allege that the defendant and another man obtained the goods and pawned them. Sergt. Cooke arrested the defendant on Saturday, at 81, Connaught Road Central.

Mr. Dyer Ball remanded the case till Thursday at 2.15 p.m., fixing bail at \$10,000.

ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL.

A Chinese youth, studying English in Morrison English School, was charged with stealing two bicycles.

Inspector Sim stated that one bicycle was stolen at Yaumati, but subsequently recovered. Defendant went to a bicycle shop and hired a machine, paying \$1 for it. Later in the afternoon he attempted to sell it, and was arrested.

Defendant stated that he attempted to sell the bicycle with the intention of discharging his debt to the owner of the bicycle which was stolen at Yaumati.

Mr. J. R. Wood sentenced defendant to a month's hard labour.

ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES.

Two Chinese were charged with obtaining goods by false pretences.

Mr. E. J. Grist, who appeared for the prosecution, stated that the men were connected with a shop in Jervoise Street, which had entered into a number of contracts to buy cotton yarn for cash on delivery. The men secured the contents in the absence of the master and represented to the contractor that they had already re-sold the yarn and would return with the money immediately. When they obtained the yarn they disposed of it for \$8,600, divided the money between them, and went into hiding.

Mr. Dyer Ball remanded the case for a week, fixing bail at \$2,000.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION.

A Chinese was charged with being in unlawful possession of a Colt's automatic pistol and 300 rounds of ammunition without a permit.

Inspector Gordon said defendant arrived from Vancouver on Sunday. The Police found the arms concealed in a false-bottomed box belonging to defendant.

Defendant stated that he was a lumberman in Vancouver, and whilst there he purchased the revolver for his protection. That was about sixteen years ago, and at that time there was no law requiring a permit for arms.

Mr. J. R. Wood fixed defendant, and ordered the ammunition to be confiscated.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. F. C. JENKIN, C.B.E.

CHIEF AND STAFF INSPECTORS. All Chief and Staff Inspectors are requested to call at this Office on Tuesday, May 7th, at any time between the hours of 9.30, 12.30, and 2.30 and 5.30.

PARADES. Units will parade at Central Station at 5.30 p.m. as detailed below. Uniform, helmets and spikes. Men on police duty will not attend. Tuesday, May 7th—No. 1 Platoon, under own Commander. Wednesday, May 8th—No. 2 Company, under Company Commander. Thursday, May 9th—No. 3 Company, Ambulance, Buglers and Drummers, under own Chief Inspector.

SEARCH SUPERVISORS. Commencing Thursday, May 9th, Search Supervisors will report on and off duty at the Import and Export Office shed, situated on the Praya on the east side of the Harbour Office, and will report for duty five minutes before the time at which they are required on the Wharves.

By Order. T. F. Hovgan, A.S.P. (E.) and Adjutant. May 6th, 1918.

CORRESPONDENCE.

VETERANS' ASSOCIATION.
[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—With reference to the amounts raised in this Colony for the above Association, a letter from Major Haggard reads as follows:—

"With reference to your kind contribution from Hongkong, sent some time ago, you will be pleased to know that we have now made arrangements for two beds in the existing building which, in the absence of any other subscription, we have dedicated on a brass plate as follows:—

Dedicated to the memory of the Officers, N.C.O.s and men from Hongkong who have fallen in the War."

"Of course, when we get the new buildings this will be extended to two single bedrooms, and we hope the inscription meets with your approval. If you should want any alteration we could, of course, procure a new brass plate."—Yours faithfully,

HERBERT W. LOOKER.

1, Des Vœux Central,
6th May, 1918.

JAVANESE CHARGED WITH MURDER.

MAN STABBED SIX TIMES.

At the Hongkong Magistracy, yesterday, before Mr. Dyer Ball, a Javanese was charged, on remand, with the murder of another Javanese, at Wanchai, on April 18th.

Both the prisoner and the deceased were shipmates and, having been discharged from a Dutch ship, lived in adjacent boarding-houses at Wanchai.

Dr. McFarlane, the Government Bacteriologist, said he examined a dagger, a pair of trousers and a jacket, which bore traces of human blood.

Alie, an intimate friend of the prisoner and deceased, who was an eye-witness of the murder, deposed that on the morning of the occurrence he was sleeping in his bunk at 110, Bernardin Street. Suddenly he heard voices raised in quarrel on the bottom floor of the boarding-house, and went down to enquire into the cause. He saw prisoner assaulting deceased. Another man was standing close by. Witness attempted to separate the combatants, and was, in turn, assaulted by prisoner. The men had evidently been gambling, and, from what he heard, it appeared that deceased did not wish to play any more. This was resented by prisoner, who thereupon committed an assault. A regular commotion ensued. Other men came in, and prisoner attempted to run amuck. The deceased pushed prisoner out of the house, and shut the door. At 4 p.m., thinking that the trouble had ended, deceased, accompanied by witness and another Javanese, went to town and bought a gold ring. They had just passed No. 2, Police Station, at Wanchai, when witness, who was walking in front of deceased, heard a loud thud behind him. Turning round, he saw prisoner stab the deceased twice, once in the back of the right shoulder, and a second time in the hand. Prisoner then ran to his boarding-house. Witness called after him "You have killed him."

Witness ran to No. 2 Police Station, and informed Inspector Sim of the occurrence. The body of the deceased, who was unconscious, was carried to the Police Station, and thence to the Government Civil Hospital in a motor-car. Inspector Sim proceeded to the boarding-house, and arrested prisoner. In reply to a question as to where the dagger was, prisoner said: "I have thrown it into the sea." The dagger and the blood-stained clothing were discovered, however, under prisoner's bunk.

Dr. Woodman said that death was the result of wounds—of which there were six—inflicted with a dagger.

Several witnesses corroborated the evidence of the principal witness.

Mr. Dyer Ball remanded the case till Thursday morning.

THE MISSES WOODS' ENTERTAINMENT.

To-night will be the farewell of these talented entertainers, who will appear with Mrs. Harry Woods in their Society entertainment, on the lines of American Cabaret, at the Chamber of Commerce Room, City Hall, at 9.15. Anyone desiring to spend an evening full of real and refined enjoyment should not miss this opportunity. A large number of the latest New York successes will be given, with the latest American dances. Tickets can be obtained at Robinson's, Piano Co., and at the door. Soldiers in uniform will be admitted for \$1. Ten per cent. of the proceeds will be donated to the Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors.

THE DEPORTATION CASE. ACTION AGAINST OFFICIALS.

JUDGMENT RESERVED.

The action brought by Li Hong Mi, a solicitor's interpreter whose deportation has been ordered, against the Captain-Superintendent of Police, the Secretary for Chinese Affairs and the Attorney-General, was concluded at the Full Court yesterday, judgment being reserved.

Mr. Alabaster, continuing his address on behalf of the plaintiff, referred to the multiplicity and vagueness of the charges and submitted that no British subject could come within the ambit of the Ordinance unless it was found, as a fact, that he had been guilty of a specific criminal offence or a specific piece of misconduct connected with the allegations.

The only answer there could be to a general charge was a denial, and that, in effect, was Mr. Li Hong Mi's answer. With regard to the specific charges there was only one—misappropriation of money collected for costs in a certain action. That was the only charge capable of more than a general denial and Mr. Li Hong Mi's defence was "not guilty," and he had suggested that the Secretary for Chinese Affairs might find out from the plaintiff in that particular case how much he had paid and that he might find out from the books of the solicitors whether that money was paid over, and he suggested also that those accounts might be checked with the fees books of the Counsel employed. That case was subsequently dropped, at any rate it did not appear in the grounds for deportation. That was the only charge on which it was possible for a person effectively to make his defence. The plaintiff did make his defence and the charge was knocked right out. Mr. Hallifax had stated that where a charge was a general one only a general denial was expected. Mr. Alabaster submitted that on the true construction of the Ordinance Mr. Hallifax was wrong, because one of the statutory questions which had to be put to the plaintiff was whether he had any witnesses to bring forward in support of his statements. He could not call witnesses in support of a general denial. Mr. Hallifax was forced by the logic of cross-examination into the admission that the only witnesses the accused could name would be witnesses as to character. Those witnesses could not prove that a man was not guilty. He thought the Court would never hold that the Legislature of this Colony intended to set up an illusory procedure—a mock trial. With regard to the question of deportation Mr. Alabaster pointed out that a British subject might be sent to that part of H.M.'s dominions to which he belonged or to any part of those dominions the Government of which consented to receiving him. The only place which was bound to receive him was the place to which he belonged. A man could not get rid of his nationality and the Crown could not get rid of the obligations which were accepted in exchange for allegiance.

Mr. Justice Gompertz: We cannot assume that the man is being sent out of H.M.'s allegiance.

Mr. Alabaster: The Ordinance gives the Governor-in-Council power to send him anywhere. In order to ascertain where a person belonged they had to apply the same tests as in domicile. A man acquired a place of settlement in H.M.'s dominions at his birth. He could also acquire another settlement by residence and if he became a pauper in England he was removed to his place of settlement gained by residence. He submitted that Li Hong Mi "belonged" to Hongkong and therefore could not be sent elsewhere. Regarding another part of the procedure under the Ordinance Mr. Alabaster pointed out that it was not necessary for the Secretary of Chinese Affairs himself to have an interview with the accused party. It was necessary that the Secretary for Chinese Affairs should send the report to the Governor-in-Council and that he should give his own opinion when forwarding that report. What had the Secretary of Chinese Affairs to base an opinion upon? Putting it at its lowest the Ordinance must mean that the Secretary for Chinese Affairs must read the evidence against the man before expressing an opinion. There was nothing in the Ordinance, however, to say that he had to read it. Mr. Alabaster submitted that the plain meaning was that the Secretary of Chinese Affairs could not express his opinion adversely to the accused until he had not only read the evidence against the man, but had also read the defendant's answers, had heard any witnesses called by the defendant and had considered everything which would help him to form a judicial opinion. To do all that he must have given the man a proper opportunity to defend himself.

As stated the Court reserved judgment in the case.

The hearing of the action has occupied the Full Court for nine days. The plaintiff was represented by Mr. H. E. Follock, K.C., and Mr. O. G. Alabaster, O.B.E., instructed by Mr. Wilkinson, of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, while Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., O.B.E., and the Attorney-General, Mr. J. H. Kemp, O.B.E., instructed by the Crown Solicitor, appeared for the defendants.

THE PEAK CHURCH. ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of worshippers at the Peak Church was held yesterday evening at St. Paul's College. Dr. Sanders presided, and there were present:—Dr. Lander (Bishop of Victoria); Archdeacon Barnett, the Rev. H. C. Copley Moyle, Mr. H. B. L. Dowbiggin, Mr. W. M. Humphreys, Mr. W. L. Pattenden, Mr. P. Jacks, and Mr. T. G. Fleming.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The following extracts are from the annual report:—The Church has again been of great value to Peak residents. Of the balance of \$1,554.37 in hand at the beginning of the year \$230 was given to War Charities and \$1,000 invested in the Straits War Loan. The following collections for outside objects were made:—Dr. Barnardo's Homes \$24.40. Hospitals \$25.50. British and Foreign Bible Society \$45. The Committee is now paying \$5 weekly to those clergy who are good enough to enable the weekly Communion Service to be continued. The Committee desire to heartily thank Mr. and Mrs. Bowley for their handsome gift of a carved teakwood reredos in memory of Ellen Maria Gibbs, Maria Bowley, Mary Benton and Annie Edwards. This work of art was executed from the design of Mr. Bird and dedicated on Easter Day, 1918. The Committee also thank the Misses May for the gift of velvet kneeling cushions for the Communion rails, Mrs. W. Meyrick Humphreys for looking after the linen and frontals; Mrs. Knight for arranging the flowers, Miss Innes and Miss Rose Edkins for playing the organ and the men of the Middlesex Regiment, who kindly led the singing at the Sunday Evening Services.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the report and statement of accounts were adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

The following were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:—

Hon. Secretary: Rev. H. Copley Moyle.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. P. Jacks.

Committee: The Bishop of Victoria, Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald, Rev. H. Copley Moyle, Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Mr. W. M. Humphreys.

Mr. Jacks, the Treasurer, referred to the need for repairing the window sashes and stated that, last year, when he asked for an estimate, it was given at \$170. The sashes were in a bad condition and would not stand the typhoon weather. They had also been asked to colour-wash the exterior of the Church, and that would cost about \$85.

The Chairman suggested that the matter be left to the Committee to decide, and this course was agreed to.

It was also asked that the Committee might find out if it would be possible to hold services on Sundays during the Summer months of July and August.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Dowbiggin for auditing the accounts.

The Bishop proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. F. B. L. Bowley for their beautiful gift of a reredos.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

A RECORD CATCH.

HUGE FISH LANDED AT GAP ROCK.

On the afternoon of April 23rd some fishermen from the village of Miu Wan, on the island of Yung Ngai, one of the Kaipong group, while fishing at Gap Rock, netted a huge Demon Ray. The fish was brought in the net between two sampans to the small landing and, being considered too heavy to lift with the derrick, a 24-inch manila tackle was rigged by Messrs. Johnson and Harvey and the fish hauled ashore by the crews of both sampans assisted by the Light-house staff.

The measurements taken were as follows:—18 feet from tip to tip of wings; 15 feet 8 inches in length, of which the whip-like tail measured 7 feet. The mouth was 2 feet 10 inches in width, its inside measurements being 4 feet wide by 3 feet 3 inches deep. The mouth had a series of jaws of sieve-like construction, but no teeth. The back bone at its largest part was 8 inches deep by 6 inches wide.

The fishermen estimated the weight of the fish to be nearly 2,000 catties, and, after being landed, it took nearly four hours to cut it up into portable pieces. The fishermen stated that the jaws were the most valuable part of the fish, being used to make medicine, and said that the whole fish was worth more than \$100.

The fish is coloured black on top and white underneath, and has two horn-like projections curving inwards towards the huge mouth.

These sampans which are owned by the Hoi Chuen family, also caught five hammer-headed sharks and two pointed-nosed sharks.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

YANGTZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LTD.

The annual general meeting of the Yangtze Insurance Association took place in the new offices of the Association, Shanghai, on April 26th.

Mr. J. Prantice who presided, said:—The working account 1916 and seven years shows a balance at credit of \$700,323.56, and, after paying a dividend of 25 per cent. to shareholders, which we recommend, and placing a further \$200,000 to the credit of investment and exchange reserve fund, there will remain a balance of \$419,323.56. This balance we consider should be more than sufficient to meet any pending losses and claims for account 1916 and years previous to that. When referring to 1916 working account at the last annual meeting I told you that both marine and war losses during the last few months of the year had been exceptionally heavy, and it is therefore a pleasant surprise to your directors, and I presume to you also, that there should be such a handsome balance at credit of this account, more especially as working account for 1916 has had to provide \$700,000 to be placed to the credit of Investment and Exchange Reserve Fund.

We again recommend the donation of \$1,000 to the Sailors' War Orphan Fund, being a fund which, as I explained last year, we consider should continue to receive this Association's support, and I hope you will approve of this recommendation.

Working Account 1917.—As you will see from the report before you, the Association's premium income for last year amounted to \$4,999,093.39, and, with interest earned and transfer fees added, the total income was \$5,296,148.76, and we carried forward a balance of \$3,186,480.97. Both the income and the balance carried forward constitute a record for the Association. Your directors recommend the payment of a special dividend of 5 per cent. (equal to be paid to shareholders out of interest earned) which will absorb \$269,000, and to carry forward the balance of \$2,917,480.97. I understand some shareholders are of opinion that they are entitled to a larger special dividend in consideration of the large balance at credit of 1917 working account, but I feel sure the majority of shareholders will approve of the board's decision to keep a large balance in hand in these times of uncertainty and surprises. In normal times we have been able to estimate pretty closely how a year's working is going to run off, but in these abnormal and difficult times, it is impossible to estimate with any degree of certainty. In addition to very heavy unexpired risks, we have a long list of losses and claims pending payment, and also numerous heavy losses which arbitrators will have to decide whether they are to be treated as marine or war losses. For these reasons I hope you will approve of the recommendation of a special dividend of 5 per cent., which is the same as we declared last year. From a marine underwriting point of view, conditions are getting more difficult every year. In 1916 the conditions were difficult, but in 1917 they were more so, and this year they are still worse, and the anxious time for those responsible for the welfare and good management of a marine insurance company can hardly be estimated. It is difficult to ascertain whether cargo insured by a certain steamer is on board that steamer, or has been shut out and shipped by a steamer of inferior class, or perhaps by a steamer on which a prudent underwriter would retain a very small line. Delays in cable communications both with London and New York make it almost impossible to reinstate overlines before a steamer has proceeded some distance on her voyage. The high values of merchandise shipped in steamers make it difficult to reinsure in consequence of the insurance markets, both at home and abroad, being full. Then there is great risk of fires on shore, cargo being left at ports of shipment, transshipment and discharge for a considerable time, where often there is no proper storage or accommodation for cargo, which considerably enhances the risk of fire, and fires on cargoes awaiting shipment and at ports of transshipment have been the cause of very heavy losses to the Association during the past twelve months.

The submarine activity has not been responsible for so many heavy losses during 1917 as it was during 1916, and for this our grateful thanks are due to the British and Allied navies.

The depreciation in our investments in gold, in consequence of the high rate of exchange, necessitated the placing of \$700,000 out of 1916 working account, to the credit of this reserve fund, which, on December 31st, showed a balance at credit of \$303,117.20, which, we trust, will be more than sufficient to meet any further depreciation in our gold investments, in consequence of a further rise in sterling exchange. Should the rate of exchange drop to its normal rate, this fund will show a credit balance of nearly \$1,500,000, a portion of which, of course, can then be placed to the credit of our general or reinsurance reserve funds. Our investments have not changed much since last year. You will see that property, land, head office and other buildings stand at \$533,002.65, a greater part of which is represented by our new head office building. The amount due by agencies, premium in course of collection, etc., stands in the balance sheet at \$1,650,520.45, which is a much larger amount than usual, but of this the sum of \$294,000 has since been collected.

I am glad to say our business in the fire department is increasing slowly, very surely and satisfactorily.

The following resolutions were adopted:

That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the 12 months ended December 31st, 1917, as presented be accepted and passed.

That a dividend at the rate of 30 per cent., being \$18 per share, on the paid-up capital of the Association, be declared, payable in cheques at Exchange 73, on April 26th, 1918, at the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China or the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Shanghai, to shareholders of record on April 22nd, 1918.

That Mr. A. I. D. Stewart be elected a director of the Association and also that Messrs. John Prentice, C. W. Wrightson, B. A. Clarke, A. W. Burkill and H. E. Arnold be re-elected directors to serve until the next ordinary general meeting of shareholders.

That the directors are hereby directed and authorized to pay to the general manager and staff of the association a bonus on their salaries for last year and that it be left to the board to decide the amounts to be paid; which, however, shall in no case exceed 20 per cent.

HONGKONG ICE CO. LTD.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Hongkong Ice Company was held, yesterday at noon, at the registered office of the general managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., for the purpose of considering, and, if thought fit, passing resolutions to effect the amalgamation of the company with the Dairy Farm Co., Ltd., and to liquidate the Hongkong Ice Company, Ltd.

The Hon. Mr. J. Landale, Chairman, presided, and there were also present:—Sir C. Paul Chater, C.M.G., and the Rev. Père Robert (Consulting Committee), the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook, Messrs. C. W. Beswick, H. W. Looker, A. B. Stewart, D. G. M. Bernard, A. C. Davidson, P. Todd, and Lau Cheung Shia (shareholders), and Mr. N. J. Austin (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said:—The purpose of the meeting to-day is to confirm the special resolution approved at the extraordinary general meeting of the Company on the 16th April, when these resolutions have been proposed and seconded I shall be pleased to answer any question to the best of my ability. I now beg to propose that the following resolutions be confirmed:—

(1)—That it is expedient to effect an amalgamation of this Company with the Dairy Farm Company, Limited, and that with a view thereto this Company be wound up voluntarily and that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Limited, be and they are hereby appointed liquidators for the purpose of such winding-up.

(2)—That the conditional agreement submitted to the meeting for the amalgamation of this Company with the Dairy Farm Company, Limited, upon the terms (inter alia) of the acquisition by that Company of the complete undertaking, business, goodwill and property of this Company in return for the issue to this Company of 62,000 shares of the Dairy Farm Company, Limited, of the nominal value of \$7.50 each credited as fully paid-up (being eight shares of \$7.50 each of that Company for each share of \$25 each of this Company) and of the issue by the Dairy Farm Company, Limited, to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Limited, the General Managers of this Company upon their entering into restrictive covenants which have been agreed upon and by way of bonus as compensation for their loss of office as General Managers of this Company) of 2,000 shares of the Dairy Farm Company, Limited, of the nominal value of \$7.50 each credited as fully paid-up and they are hereby authorised pursuant to 185 of the Companies Ordinance 1911 to adopt the said agreement and carry the same into effect with such (if any) modification thereof as the said liquidators may think expedient.

Sir C. P. CHATER seconded in each case, and the resolutions were carried unanimously.

This was all the business.

COMPANY REPORT.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the 37th ordinary meeting on the 17th inst. states:—

1918 Account.—After paying an interim dividend of \$18 per share on 3rd May, 1917, the amount standing to the credit of this account is \$39,793.96.

This is resolved to deal with in the following manner:—

To pay a final dividend of \$7 per share	\$70,000.00
To add to sterling reserve fund \$20,000, bringing it up to \$200,000	133,333.33
To add to underwriting suspense account to close the year 1918	336,460.63
	\$539,793.96

1917 Account.—The amount standing at credit of this account is \$3,227,954.98. Out of this the General Agents and Consulting Committee have declared an interim dividend of \$18 per share, absorbing \$180,000. The balance of \$3,047,954.98 will be carried forward.

Consulting Committee.—Since the last meeting Mr. F. Maitland resigned his seat on leaving the Colony. The vacancy thus caused has been filled by the appointment of Mr. E. J. Chapman. The Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. E. Shellim and Messrs. E. J. Chapman, H. P. White, C. S. Gubbay and Sir Robert Ho Tung retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

SOLE AGENTS FOR SPALDING'S ATHLETIC GOODS.

SLAZENGER'S AND AYRE'S

1918

TENNIS BALLS

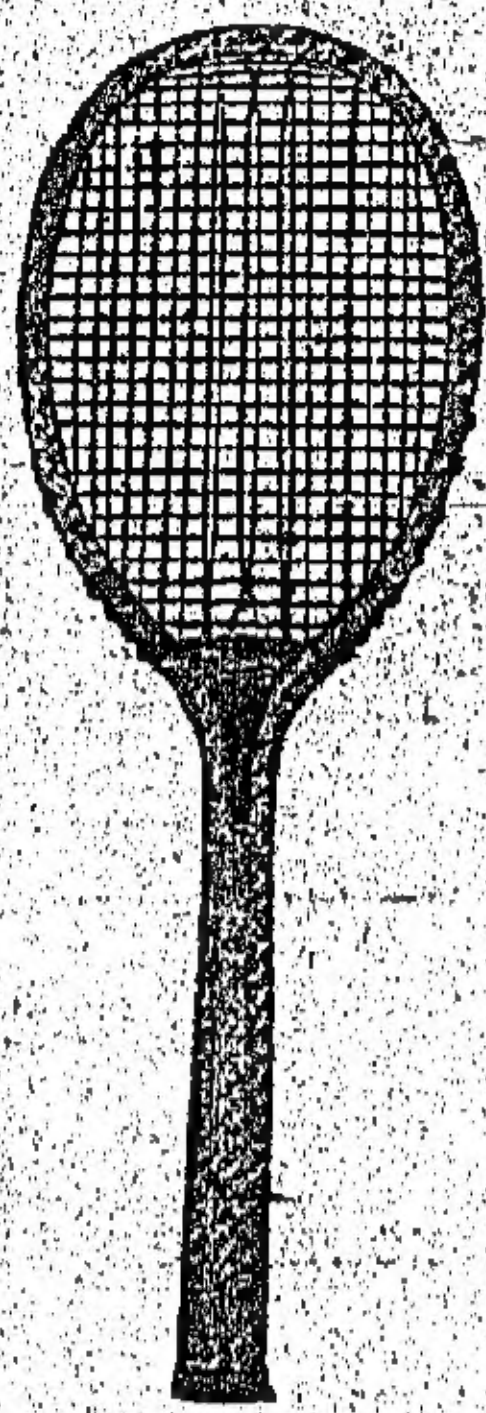
PACKED IN SEALED TIN BOXES.

MOST APPROVED MODELS IN

TENNIS RACKETS

INCLUDING

AYRE'S No. 1 "SLOTTED THROAT,"
THE "IZ," "LAMBERT CHAMBERS,"
BUSSEY'S FAMOUS "DEMON DRIVER,"
"VANTAGE," "TOURNAMENT,"
THE "LEF"



TENNIS POSTS.

RACKET COVERS.

CENTRE GUIDES.

COURT MARKING

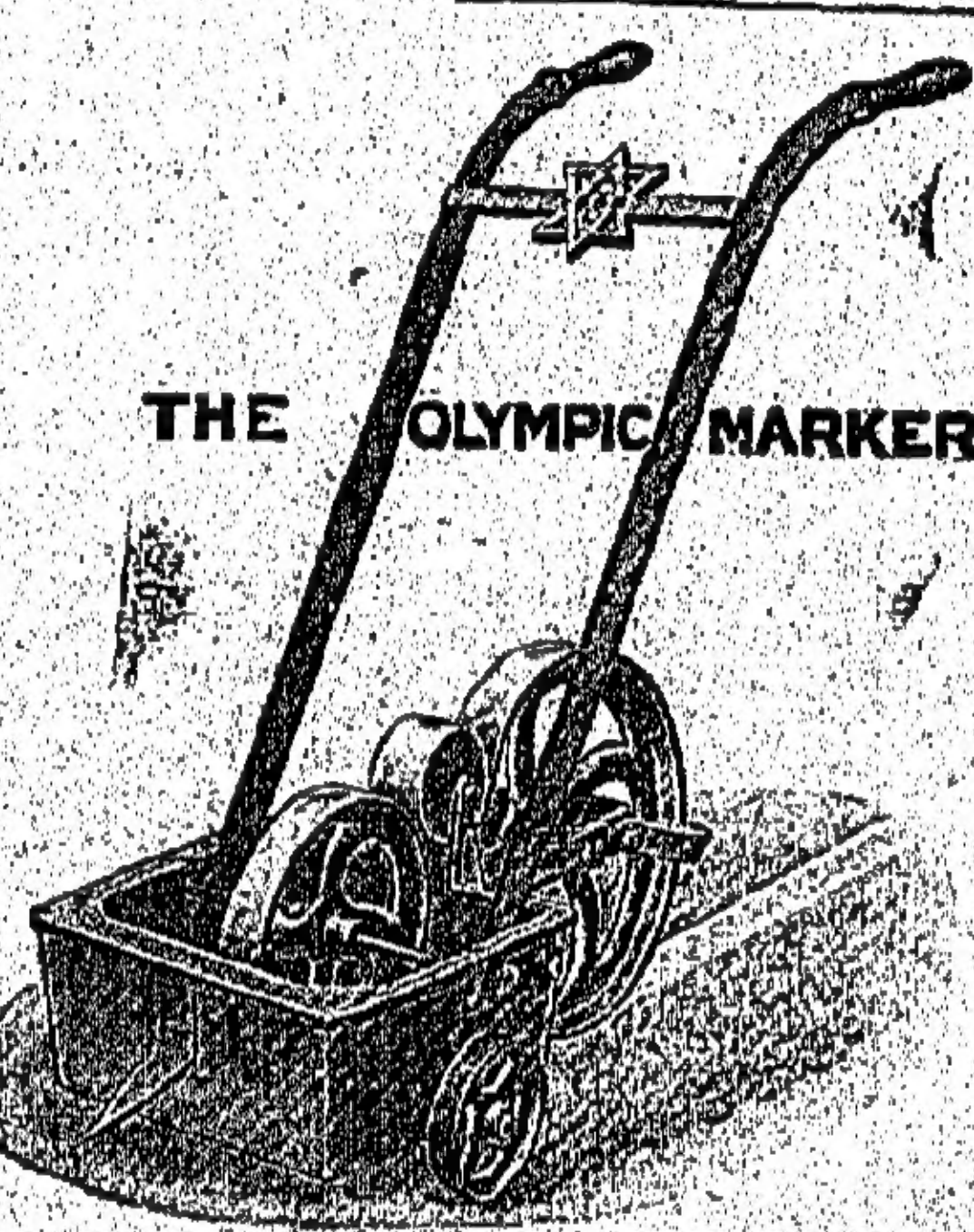
PINS.

LAWN MOWERS.

RESTRINGING AND REPAIRS

BY COMPETENT WORKMEN.

19



THE OLYMPIC MARKER

DICK'S ORIGINAL BALATA BELTING

DICK'S — THE ORIGINAL BALATA BELTING

HAS TENSILE STRENGTH, FLEXIBILITY, DURABILITY.

NO STRETCHING—NO SLIPPING.

THE SUPERIOR BELTING

Sole Agents.

Andersen, Meyer & Co., Ltd.,
Hotel Mansions, Mission Buildings,
HONGKONG. CANTON.

1185

Wm. Powell Ltd

TELEPHONE 346

YOU CANNOT get wet in a

"ANDAMAC"

FEATHERWEIGHT WATERPROOF.

An "ANDAMAC" is smart in appearance, very strong, absolutely Waterproof, its weight about one pound.

Price \$15.50

OTHER MAKES

IN

PARAMATTA, GABARDINE, etc., etc.

Price \$22.50 \$25.00 & \$35.00

SILK OILSKINS.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.
TENNIS TOURNAMENT.OPEN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP.
N. E. KENT AND F. A. REDMOND

M. R. LO AND M. W. LO.

Best of 5 sets at 4.30 p.m.

T-O-D-A-Y

ON
WAR CHARITIES COURT

(Weather permitting).

P. M. HODGSON,
Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 7th May, 1918. [1973]

NOTICE.

CARVALHO & COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mr. HENRY ARMAND HENRICKSON CASTRO has This Day CEASED to be the Manager of our Business at Hongkong and his authority to sign our Firm Name has been withdrawn.

Dated this 6th day of May, 1918.
CARVALHO & CO. [1974]



NOTICE.

NORTH POINT PUBLIC BATHING BEACH.

THIS BEACH is now OPEN for the use of the General Public.

The accommodation is free, with the exception of the reserved portion, for which a CHARGE OF TEN CENTS per person is made.

Soldiers and Sailors in uniform are admitted free to the reserved enclosure.

KENNEDY TOWN PUBLIC BATHING BEACH.

This BEACH is now OPEN for the use of the General Public.

The accommodation is free.

W. CHATHAM,
Director of Public Works,
Public Works Department,
Hongkong, 6th May, 1918. [1975]

FOR SALE.

\$100 PEARL THREAD-NECK-LACE, and \$25 PEARL EARRINGS. Necessary compels the Vendor to sell these very cheaply.

Apply from 12 to 7 p.m. Room 68, King Edward Hotel. [1976]

AMERICAN AND MANCHURIAN LINE.

S.S. "CAPTO"

FROM NEW YORK.

THE above vessel having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby notified that their cargo will be landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whose delivery may be obtained.

All Broken, chafed and damaged goods will be examined on SATURDAY, the 11th May, at 9.30 A.M. All claims must be presented within a fortnight of Steamers arrival, otherwise they will not be recognised.

No Claim will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after noon the 20th inst. will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance whatever will be effected.

Consignees of Cargo must produce Import permit signed by the Superintendent of the Imports and Exports Office before Bills of Lading can be countersigned by THE BANK LINE, LTD., Agents.

AMERICAN & MANCHURIAN LINE.
Hongkong, 6th May, 1918. [1977]

LOST.

IN Kowloon, a LIVER and WHITE POINER DOG, answers to the Name of "MAX." Anyone found hereafter in possession of the dog, without reasonable excuse, will be prosecuted.

MR. E. V. M. R. DE SOUSA,
No. 1, Ormsby Villas,
Granville Road, Kowloon. [1969]

WANTED.

WANTED by a European Firm in India an EXPERT, European, Chinese or American, who has a thorough practical experience in the manufacture of glue from Hide cuttings and bones. Good salary to a reliable man. Apply in first instance with copies of testimonials.

MANAGER,
Care of "Daily Press" Office.
1927.

NOTICE.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.

THE CERTIFICATE No. 3081 for 32 Shares Nos. 11410 to 11445 standing in the books of the Society in the name of FRANCISCO DE PAULA CEMBRANO late of Wimbledon, Middlesex, England, has been declared LOST and if at the expiration of one month from the date hereof the above Certificate be not forthcoming another Certificate for the said Shares will be issued by the Society and thereafter no other will be acknowledged.

C. MONTAGUE EDE,
General Manager.
Hongkong, 10th April, 1918. [1978]

INTIMATIONS

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

NOTICE.

THE HALF-YEARLY MEETING of Members Advertised to be held on SATURDAY, the 27th April, is unavoidably postponed until SATURDAY, the 11th May, 1918, at 12 o'clock Noon, at the Office of the JOCKEY CLUB, on the Ground Floor of the HONGKONG CLUB ANNEX, Chater Road.

By Order,

T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.
Hongkong, 23rd April, 1918. [1899]

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TWENTY-NINTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, on SATURDAY, the 11th May, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of presenting the Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts to 28th February, 1918, electing Directors and Auditors.

TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 12 o'clock Noon April 27th to 12 o'clock Noon May 11th.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 20th April, 1918. [1940]

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE THIRTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Office of the undesignated on FRIDAY, the 17th May, 1918, at Noon.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 3rd May to the 17th May, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATTHEW & Co., Ltd.,
General Agents.
Hongkong, 20th April, 1918. [1948]

THE CHINA-BORNEO CO., LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE FIFTEENTH YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Buildings, at 11 A.M. on FRIDAY, the 17th May, 1918, to receive a Statement of Accounts to the 31st December, 1917, and the Report of the General Manager and Consulting Committee, and to elect a Consulting Committee and Auditor.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 4th May to the 17th May, 1918, both days inclusive.

THE CHINA-BORNEO CO., Ltd.,
W. G. DARRS,
General Manager.
Hongkong, 2nd May, 1918. [1965]

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

NO. 1, CARNARVON ROAD, Kowloon, well-built EUROPEAN TWO-STORY HOUSE, good locality.

Apply to—

YU KAM HING,
c/o Messrs. JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER.
1958

TO LET.

RESIDENTIAL FLAT in Prince's Building.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., Ltd. [1976]

TO LET.

IMMEDIATE entry, Four very desirable SHOPS, situated in Lee House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.

For rent and other particulars apply to—

THE MANAGER,
HONGKONG ICE CO., LTD.,
40, Connaught Road Central. [900]

TO LET.

HOUSES on Shamoon, Canton.

No. 57, THE PEAK, LUSTLEIGH.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., Ltd. [28]

TO LET.

A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Kowloon.

Apply to—

HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings. [1938]

FOR SALE.

"GALESEND" 103, THE PEAK, SIX ROOMS.

Apply to—

C. H. GALE,
P.W.D. [1939]

FOR SALE.

ON MOUNT PARISH, WANCHAI, a well-built Four-Roomed House with Garden, Electric Light, Gas and Telephone installed. Apply to—

D. V. STRAVERSON,
Messrs. DEACON, LOCKER, DEACON & HASTON. [1942]

INTIMATION

WATSON'S

E

THE PREMIER SCOTCH
OF THE FAR EAST
FOR 25 YEARS.

POPULARITY MAINTAINED

BY ITS

EXCELLENT QUALITY,

NOT BY EXPENSIVE

WORLD-WIDE ADVERTISING.

A. S. WATSON &
CO., LTD.,WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,
HONGKONG.

Tel. 614. [19]

MARRIAGES.

ERRA-RAVIT. At the British Consulate, Shanghai, on April 30th, and afterwards at No. 15, Mohawk Road, ISAAC, third son of the late ISAAC and KATE ERRA, to RUTH MANOVERITZ, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. RAVIT, of San Francisco.

RAMPARTS-KRELL. At H.B.M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, on April 30th, FREDERICK STEPHEN, second son of the late GEORGE RAMPARTS and Mrs. RAMPARTS, of Ballinacraig, Ireland, to FLORENCE, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. KRELL, Shanghai.

Hongkong Office: 10, Des Voeux Road, G.
London Office: 121, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press

HONGKONG, 7TH MAY, 1918.

THOUGHT AND ACTION.

GIBSON, in what Lord MONTAGUE regards as one of his most desolating sentences, once described history as little more than a register of the crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind. If that be the case, then mankind has been making history during the last three years with a vengeance. One would like to lay emphasis on the misfortunes and believe with HARRY that man is but an automaton, having no power of "self-determination" in the political slogan of the day; but, unfortunately, there is only too much evidence of the folly and the crimes. The last have been referred to "a moratorium of the Sermon on the Mount," but one wonders whether the divine philosophy of the Sermon on the Mount has ever really entered into men's hearts, whether the phrases were not murmured mechanically and the sentiments regarded as "too bright and good for human nature's daily food." There seems no one who is in a sufficiently commanding position to utter words of wisdom to which the nations will listen. There are many eloquent preachers of courage, but the courage is not of the right sort. It partakes rather of what THUCYDIDES called the courage that comes from thoughtlessness. Germany offers a striking example of this kind of courage. Her men are dying like flies from sheer lack of thought, for what will it avail them even if they conquer the whole

world? Will they add to their happiness by conquest? Will the nations they conquer work for them, feed them, allow them to live a life of pleasure? The dream has been dreamed before many times, and each time there has been a sad awakening. The Major of the Palace, the Emperor's slave, proves in the end the real sovereign, to become himself in turn the *roi fainéant*. It is difficult to see our own side so clearly, partly because we are impatient of criticism, but even here some signs of thoughtlessness may be discerned. Dardanelles expeditions, adventures in Mesopotamia and elsewhere all show plenty of courage, not always preceded by severe calculation. To enter on a bold adventure is one thing when it follows profound calculation of the cost, quite another when it is preceded by little or no calculation at all. It is true there is always a semblance of calculation. "Wait and see" conveyed an idea of profound calculation. The public waited and saw those whom Lord MONTAGUE describes as "our distinguished apostles of Efficiency" call to the opposing party for aid. "They broke down, or thought they had broken down," by reason of the force of circumstance. This may have been so, but the public thought otherwise, and thought otherwise of the Coalition Ministry which rose from their ashes, itself to be replaced by another band of apostles of Efficiency. Still old doubts arise. After intense asseverations that there is the closest co-operation, a Military Council is demanded as a necessity—as the one thing, indeed, whose absence has prevented us from winning the war. Then everything is prepared. The enemy may attack when he likes; everything is ready down to the last gas-mask; but when the blow comes one has an uneasy feeling that everything was not ready. In places the line had to be held by scratch forces hastily summoned—members of the Chinese labour corps and other stray units. All honour to them for the stand they made. It was magnificent, but was it war? The Allies, dispatches informed the world, were outnumbered in numbers by the enemy. In the picturesque language of the correspondents, the Germans came on in "hordes." Sir DOUGLAS HAIG never uses the word in his dispatches, nor do his descriptions of the German attack give any idea of the connotation of the word as applied to the enemy. To him they only came on "with the greatest courage and determination." But, taking the word "horde" as signifying only the immense number of the Germans, it is rather surprising to find the PREMIER, under the stress of passing through Parliament a measure likely to encounter opposition, acknowledging that at the beginning of the offensive the Allied troops were in a slight numerical superiority. Later, it was stated that one of the danger-points was where the British had reluctantly, at the request of the French, taken over a part of the French line—reluctantly, because it involved the line being too thinly held. This was promptly denied. Colonel REFINOTON declares the manpower inadequate. The *Times* refuses to quarrel with its friends in power and dispenses with the services of the gallant Colonel, who thereupon vents his views in the *Morning Post*—and is fined for doing so. A few weeks—almost days—afterwards the Government introduces an urgent Bill for increasing the manpower of the Army, running the risk of a revolution in framing its scope, and rushes it through Parliament at full speed with the help of the closure. Again, after fighting for three years in the closest co-operation the Allied troops have been at last placed under one Supreme Commander-in-Chief. This is said to have given confidence. If now, why not before, at a time when there was a chance of breaking through? The ceaseless and insatiable depreciation of the enemy with which the correspondents' dispatches are filled is no doubt intended to create an air of confidence, but if our cause is a just one, as we firmly believe it to be, do we need such spurious encouragement? Is it not calculated to act rather as a narcotic than a stimulant? Thoughtlessness has displayed itself again in the demand for a Japanese expedition to Siberia, advocated by hot-headed members of the House of Commons, with no knowledge of the conditions, as absolutely necessary "within twenty-four hours," if the British Empire is not to go down in ruin. This demand for thoughtless action is even accompanied by a complaint that Britain has failed in the past by taking too much thought—thought for other nations' feelings. The best comment on the Siberian expedition question is afforded by the action of Germany in demanding that the prisoners-of-war in Russia should be disarmed and their revolutionary propaganda stopped. Germany evidently fears that if they did fight it would not be on the side of the Central Powers. Here is another lesson in the necessity of caution. Whether it will be learned remains to be seen.

An American Volunteer Corps in Tientsin is projected.

A barrel organ is being used in Tientsin to raise funds for the Red Cross. Tientsin also has a Tank.

Mr. E. J. Muller, of Shanghai, has been granted an English patent for his special method of building reinforced concrete ships.

Three cases of cerebro-spinal fever, and one death from the disease, were reported in the Colony, on Saturday, all the sufferers were Chinese.

Mrs. Pollock informs us that the sum of £137 has been forwarded to Dr. Barnardo's Homes as a result of donations during Lent and the sale of work.

An order for 50,000 pairs of leather shoes has been placed with a Chinese leather company in Hongkong, by Mr. Sun Chin-mee, a deputy from General Tsoo Kun, Pacification Commissioner in Hupeh and Hunan.

Paul Lukas, a German, charged at the Mixed Court, Shanghai, on April 30th, with being an idle, destitute person without visible means of subsistence and with no employment, was ordered to be handed over to the Chinese authorities for internment.

The following attractive recommendation of his wares devised by a Kanizawa milkman is surely worth wide publicity (writes the *N.C. Daily News*): "He says he sells only the purest milk expressed from the best ox with the present care."

An inquiry at the Mixed Court, Shanghai, on April 30th, into the circumstances attending the death of the richa coolie who was mauled by the tiger which escaped from Harmsen's Circus a verdict was returned of death from shock following an assault committed by the tiger.

A motor-car fatality occurred on Saturday afternoon in Cause Road. Car No. 7 knocked down a little Chinese girl, aged six years, whose parents reside at No. 26, Shelley Street. The injured child was immediately removed to the Government Civil Hospital by the Police, but died two hours after admission.

The third annual report of the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas shows that the sum of £34,721. 13s. 2d. was subscribed in China up to the end of last year, and that Shanghai headed the list with £14,425. 16s. 11d. Since the League was formed in October, 1914, the total received from the branches, which now number 159, has been £138,813 11s. 2d., and 29 aeroplanes have been presented to the Government.

A most important judgment was given in the Mixed Court, Shanghai, on April 29th, in which a Chinese was charged with selling opium without a licence. The Court decided that, as "a by-law must not be repugnant to the ordinary law," the ratepayers in 1915 had no right to pass a resolution empowering the Municipal Council to suppress the selling of opium, which was at that time "a perfectly legitimate business."

Latest news states that the s.s. *Kiang-kan*, of the China Merchants' S.N. Co., will undoubtedly be a total loss. When off Hankow, she was struck nearly amidships by the gunboat *Shutai*, which, swinging round, wrenched her anchor, and she sank in six minutes. She is said to be lying in 80-ft. of water, with only the upper portions of her masts showing. There is no further news of Capt. Conley and the second and third engineers, who were reported missing.

The Frawley Company are paying a return visit to Hongkong and will commence their series of performances at the Theatre Royal on Monday, May 13th. It is not long since they were here before, and the excellent productions for which they were then responsible have certainly not been forgotten. During the forthcoming season a number of new plays are promised, and if the same high standard is maintained full "houses" should be the rule. Booking is now open at Montreux.

At a meeting held in London on March 10th (says the *L. & C. Express*), Belgian, Russian and Polish women offered their congratulations to English women, whose enfranchisement would, they said, help women of all nations to further progress. A Chinese lady proudly reminded the audience that while they were struggling for the powers of citizenship Chinese women were helping to found a great republic. She said that had the means of transit been better, China would have sent a delegation across 8,000 miles to greet the new freedom of England in a more stately manner—a suggestion that entranced the meeting.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

GOVERNMENT PERTURBED BY SOUTHERN SUCCESSES.

PEKING, May 6th.

The Government is perturbed over the Southern successes in recapturing Heng-yuan and Changteh. These successes are believed to be due to disunion in the Government forces.

TUCHUNS AND THE ELECTION OF PARLIAMENT.

The Government is requested by Tuchuns to publish the date for the election of Parliament and thus satisfy the Constitutionalists.

The election of President falls due in August, and, preferably, this should be done by Parliament rather than by the National Council.

DANISH MINISTER AND JAPANESE LOAN.

It is reported that the Danish Minister is dissatisfied with the terms of the loan of two million dollars, secured on the Telegraphs, which has been entered into with Japan.

SALT SURPLUS.

A Salt surplus of \$240,000 will be handed over by the Group Bankers to the Government on Monday.

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG KONG SHAN PO."] CANTON, May 6th.

A meeting of the Special Parliament to discuss the change of the Military Government was held on the 4th inst. The meeting was attended by about 90 M.P.s and the resolution was passed by 44 against 28. Accordingly Generalissimo Sun Yat-sen has announced his resignation of the position of Generalissimo.

The Civil Governor's troops in Shui Hing came into collision with the Kwangsi troops and fighting immediately commenced. Peace, however, was restored after a few hours.

Commander Nagai Pong-ping, who participated in the battle in Yeung Kong, returned with his army to Canton yesterday. Over three regiments of Yunnanese troops have also returned to Canton from the Ko Chow front. It is said that these Yunnan troops are to be dispatched to the north borders, after they have received their supplies.

It is reported that fighting still continues on the Lui Chow front, as there are certain important cities still in the hands of Lung's troops. The Tuchun has ordered the troops from Ko Chow.

A message from King Chow states that Lung's troops are being sent to Lui Chow. Numerous small gunboats are patrolling the King Chow coast, and all the forts are guarded by large bodies of men. The people in King Chow are afraid that the island is to be raided by the 1st Squadron.

It is reported that Canton troops were recently defeated by Northern troops on the Nam Hung front. Northern troops are penetrating the city of Shui Kwan, which is expected to capitulate shortly.

LETTER FROM COLONEL WARD, M.P.

WIDESPREAD AND CORDIAL COMMENT.

A letter from Colonel John Ward, M.P., to Mr. Cusack, which was quoted in the *Staffordshire Sentinel*, has, says that paper of January 26th, struck the right note, and caused widespread favourable and cordial comment. In the course of his letter Colonel Ward said:— "The man who talks peace, or even thinks peace, while the evil thing they call 'Militarism' threatens human society, should be unceremoniously suppressed. The moment the race which has adopted 'Militarism' as its shibboleth and policy, and by their attitude have forced it upon others, confess their error, or are compelled by force to see its futility, I shall shout as loud as any, 'Lay down your arms.' But until that day, he who gives that cry is and must be treated as an enemy to humanity, which he is, however unconscious of the fact he may be. I would put him under temporary restraint, until the defenders of the right have by their valour made the world a suitable abode for his principles."

THE WAR.

THE BATTLE IN FLANDERS.

HURRICANE BOMBARDMENT OF ANGLO-FRENCH LINES.

AUSTRIA'S CHAOTIC SITUATION.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS VERY SERIOUS.

GERMANO-DUTCH TENSION ENDS.

Branco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

FRENCH SEND UP "S.O.S."

LONDON, May 4th.
6.56 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing to-day, states:—There are unmistakable signs that the enemy is resuming his effort to force the chain of hills west of Kemmel. Last night he opened a tremendous bombardment of Scherpenberg and the neighbourhood of Mont Rouge, lasting a considerable time. The crushing hurricane bombardment upon the Anglo-French lines north of La Clytte to south of Mont Rouge was resumed this morning, and half-an-hour later the French were sending up "S.O.S." signals. No details are at present available.

LINE IMPROVED.

LONDON, May 5th.
12.30 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We improved our line and captured several prisoners in the neighbourhood of Sailley-le-Sec and eastward of Hebuterne.

We repulsed an attack on our new positions north-eastward of Hinges. Our line remained intact.

We successfully raided in the Forest de Nieppe sector.

Both artilleries were active on the Lys battlefield.

EARLIER CABLES.

SUCCESSFUL MINOR OPERATIONS

LONDON, May 4th.
10.20 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The enemy's bombardment yesterday morning southward and south-eastward of Ypres was vigorously returned by the British and French artillery. No attacks developed.

Infantry fighting was confined to local engagements at different points.

In successful minor operations carried out on the night of the 3rd inst. in the Hinges sector we captured 40 prisoners.

We completely repulsed an attempted local attack under cover of a heavy artillery barrage early yesterday morning southward of Locon.

The French made progress in the Locon sector, and captured 50 prisoners.

The British on the right of the French also made progress in the neighbourhood of Meteren.

AERIAL OPERATIONS.

LONDON, May 5th.
12.25 a.m.

Good visibility on the 3rd inst. assisted the co-operation of our aeroplanes with the artillery. Bombing was carried out with the utmost vigour, over 20 tons being dropped on Chaulnes, Tournai, and La Bassée railway stations, and on Estaires, Maroilles, Menin, Comines and Middelkerke.

There was fierce fighting all day, in which we brought down 28 German machines and drove down five. Our anti-aeroplanes shot down three within our lines. Eleven of ours are missing. Our night-fliers, despite a mist and bad weather, dropped two tons of bombs on Chaulnes and Juniville railway junction. All our machines returned.

CHAOTIC SITUATION IN AUSTRIA.

LONDON, May 4th.

The chaotic political situation continues in Austria.

Premier von Seidler, addressing the Reichsrat party leaders, admitted that the entire military and political position had reached a climax, and that economic, especially food, conditions were very serious. Apparently, alluding to the offensive in Italy, he said the next few months would bring big decisions. It was necessary the Government should not be hampered by parliamentary troubles, and he therefore recommended that Parliament should not resume at present.

Herr Gross, President of the Reichsrat, refused to further postpone the sittings, while even a section of the German party was not keen on the elimination of Parliament.

Herr Adler, leader of the Social Democrats, also other party leaders, including Poles, warned the Premier against a postponement of the sittings.

Further developments are awaited with the greatest interest.

ADJOURNMENT OF REICHSRAT.

AMSTERDAM, May 5th.

A message from Vienna states that the Emperor empowered von Seidler to adjourn the Reichsrat.

The official journal explains that this measure is due to the inability of Parliament to find a stable policy, which is necessary in the decisive phase of the war. The resumption of the Reichsrat would only sharpen political antagonisms and endanger the fulfilment of the economic task, especially the solution of the supply of food to enable the nation to hold out and upon which everything depends.

The Berliner Tageblatt's Vienna Correspondent says the adjournment is chiefly due to the desire of the Crown to avoid debates on the Emperor's letter and on members of the House of Parma concerned in that affair.

The Wiener Zeitung's Vienna Correspondent says the Government's intention is to partition Bohemia, which has incensed the Czech population, is largely responsible for the crisis.

MILL FIRE IN AUSTRIA.

AMSTERDAM, May 6th.

A fire has destroyed the largest Austrian corn mill at Wysotchan. The damage is estimated at several million kronen. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

AUSTRO-GERMANO-ROUMANIA PEACE TREATY.

AMSTERDAM, May 5th.

The Austro-German and Roumanian representatives have initialled the economic Treaty supplementing the Roumanian Peace Treaty.

All peace treaties between Austro-Germany and Roumania are now ready for signature.

GERMANY'S POST-WAR PREPARATION.

LONDON, May 4th.

The following is the missing portion of yesterday's message:—

Herr Zimmermann continued:—We shall have to make our deductions ruthlessly from our military superiority after further great events in the West. Our Colonial demands must not be confined to the Belgian and French Congo."

Proceeding, he drew attention to Nigeria's exports of palm kernels and palm oil, and says that Nigeria, Cameroons and Congo territories are in a position to deliver immediately over 300,000 tons of palm kernels and palm oil, and he could conceive a German Colonial Empire in Central Africa and the South Seas which would supply immediately 400,000 tons of oil-fruits and more than one million tons at an early date, making Germany almost entirely independent.

GERMANO-DUTCH TENSION CEASES.

THE HAGUE, May 5th.

The Foreign Minister, Jonkhoeur Loudon, has informed the Chamber that the Germano-Dutch tension has ended.

THE DUTCH-INDIES. EXTENSION OF EXPORT PROHIBITION.

THE HAGUE, May 5th.

The Governor-General of the Dutch-Indies has extended the prohibition of the export of tin, quinine and kapok to timber, tobacco, sugar, tea, pepper, coffee, copra, petroleum, vegetable oils, and skins.

It is officially explained that the object of the prohibition is to ensure to the Dutch-Indies the proportionate import of necessities, especially foodstuffs, in exchange for export.

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA. THE EX-IMPERIAL FAMILY.

LONDON, May 5th.

Reuter's Correspondent at Moscow telegraphed on May 4th that the ex-Tsar and Tsarina, and one daughter, according to a Soviet announcement, have been transferred to Ekaterinburg, owing to alleged efforts of the peasants and Monarchists in the neighbourhood of Tobolsk to promote their escape. The ex-Tsarovich is not mentioned.

ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLOT.

AMSTERDAM, May 5th.

In the Reichstag, vice-Chancellor von Payor, referring to the events in Ukraine, mentioned the German communiqué dated on 2nd inst., which alleged that von Eichhorn's drastic action was due to the discovery that the Ukrainian Committee, including several Ministers, had plotted the assassination of all German officers in Ukraine.

EASTERN AFFAIRS DEPLORABLE.

Certain Berlin papers severely criticise the actions of the German Military Authorities in Ukraine, which is now completely controlled by Germans.

Vorwärts says that affairs in the East are deplorable. "The peace concluded there is calculated to scare away the remaining opponents."

Tageblatt says that even optimists may see that the Eastern structure stands on a very unstable foundation.

ELECTORAL REFORM IN PRUSSIA.

GOVERNMENT PROVOKES ANGRY COMMENT.

LONDON, May 4th.

The Prussian Lower House's rejection of equal suffrage, as passed on the 2nd inst., which was promised by the Kaiser and strongly supported by the Government, has provoked angry comment in the German Radical and Socialist newspapers, which declare that the disappointment of the great mass of the Prussian people is so profound that it constitutes a danger which should not be underestimated. These papers insist that the Government showed a deplorable weakness by not immediately dissolving a Parliament which is so conservative that the proposed reform seems scarcely attainable except with nullifying qualifications. The possibility exists that there will be some compromise before the third reading, but the supporters of the reform are not sanguine.

THE MARI REVOLT.

LONDON, May 4th.

The Press Bureau announces that the Mari operations have been successfully concluded. The Government's terms were announced at Kahan on the 2nd inst. and were signed by the Mari Chief and tribal headmen. The former, on behalf of himself and tribe, expressed contrition and guaranteed in the future to be of good behaviour. The withdrawal of the troops in the Mari country has commenced.

NO FURTHER USE FOR AN OFFICER.

LONDON, May 6th.

The Gazette announces that Colonel F. Holland (retired, Indian Army) has been removed from the Army, the King having no further use for his services as an officer.

COTTON OPERATIVES DEMAND HIGHER WAGES.

LONDON, May 6th.

Representatives of all the Cotton Trade Unions at a meeting at Manchester on Saturday decided to formulate a demand for a further advance in wages.

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED.

REFLECTS CONFIDENCE OF GENERALS.

LONDON, May 4th.

Mr. Lloyd George, interviewed by Reuter, when asked for impressions of his visit to the Armies, said:—"I saw Generalissimo Foch, Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, Generals Petain, Pershing, and Rawlinson, and other officers of the Higher Command. They all felt very confident. I also saw a very large number of regimental officers and soldiers who had actually been in the fighting-line during the last six weeks doing very strenuous work, and their confidence was also amazing. I met no pacifists or pessimists among them. They could not in the least understand the wrangles in certain quarters of England, which seemed to proceed on the assumption that they had been defeated and that the only question of importance was as to who was to blame. Apart from the mishap of the first few days, which they all recognised, they felt confident that they were winning and inflicting great losses on the enemy."

Mr. Lloyd George continued:—"When the enemy gets ground, the Generals said, we make them pay an enormous price. In these offensives, the Generals said, you can always buy land if you are prepared to pay the purchase price, but the cost for the Germans is great and increasing. The Generals are certain that the Germans would soon be sorry that they had committed themselves to these attacks, even if they were not already so."

That was the general feeling the Prime Minister found among men of all ranks of the British and Armies. Asked "What about the American Army?" the Prime Minister said, "A good number are already there. Many more will pour in steadily during May. The French, who saw their fighting in the battle lower down the line, said they were first-class fighting material, full of courage and resource and very keen. The Germans have rendered at least two great services to the Allied cause; they have accelerated the advent of the American troops and made the unity of command at last reality. The French and British were fighting in close comradeship, each with a full appreciation of the qualities of the other. The message I bring from the British Army to the people at home is, 'Be of good cheer. We are all right.'"

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

RUBBER RESTRICTIONS.

WASHINGTON, May 5th.

The War Trade Board has placed crude rubber on the restricted imports list.

The price from May 1st will be 62 cents per pound for standard quality, 63 cents per pound smoked sheets and standard quality first crepe, and 65 cents per pound fine Para c.i.f. New York.

NEW TAXES IN CANADA.

OTTAWA, May 5th.

Mr. MacLean, acting Minister of Finance, in the House of Commons, outlining the new taxes, said the duty on coffee, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco would be increased.

Tea, which was at present free, would be taxed at 5d. per pound.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, May 5th.

Silver is quoted 10d. There is no demand and the market is quiet.

The silver market is steady.

LONDON, May 6th.

Messrs. Samuel, Montagu & Co., in their weekly silver report, state:—"The command price is now practically established."

The Shanghai exchange has eased somewhat, and is now much below parity with silver.

The German Reichsbank return issued on April 23rd states that its silver holding is now over 23,000,000 compared with about 280,000 a year ago.

The silver market is quiet.

GERMANY'S NEXT PEACE OFFENSIVE.

"PEACE BY ARRANGEMENT" OBSOLETE.

LONDON, May 4th.

The newspapers, discussing Germany's next "peace offensive," reflect the determination of the British nation and Allies to see the war through and the impossibility of their being duped into a peace which does not fulfil the principles for which they are fighting.

The Times says the general expectation that failure of the German offensive to secure a crushing victory would be followed by a peace offensive in Allied countries seems likely to be fulfilled.

German speakers and agents are showing a suspicious readiness to dilate upon the food shortage and general discomfort in Germany, the obvious intention being to lead a ring of sincerity to a German profession of anxiety for peace. At the same time neutral emissaries of well-known antecedents and tendencies are understood recently to have come to England and other Allied countries for the purpose of suggesting that if the Allies only show a pacific disposition they will find Germany ready to meet them with moderate terms. In some instances these emissaries are believed to have submitted proposals regarding the best policy for the Allies to follow relative to internal situation in Germany. It need hardly be said that the origin of these manoeuvres is as well understood as the purpose of the military offensive in March, and thus the Allied Government will present an equally firm front to peace intrigue as the Armies have presented to military attacks.

The Daily Mail says the irruption of amiable neutrals to England with no visible business has already begun, including the arrival of a pro-German friend of von Kuhlmann's, who is not charged with an official mission so far as his London Legation is aware. These neutrals and emissaries could save themselves much trouble and some personal danger if they clearly recognised that Great Britain is not to be duped like the Bolsheviks and Ukraine were duped.

The Daily Express says the first of the peace offensive agents has been to London and has laid proposals semi-officially before various officials. He is a Dutchman of important financial associations, and has made enquiries on behalf of the civil, not the military, party in Germany. The agent told the authorities, here that our refusal to consider peace last year had deprived the civil party in Germany of a chance of ousting the military party, and he added that the most we could hope for now was a peace by arrangement. "There is no such thing in the English dictionary as 'peace by arrangement,'" he was told, and the speaker added, "Very soon there will be no such phrase as 'raw material' in the German dictionary."

There is no doubt that the present peace offensive is inspired largely by Herr Ballin and the German commercial and shipping magnates.

AUSTRALIA IN WAR TO THE END.

MELBOURNE, May 5th.

Mr. Watt, the Acting Prime Minister, in a speech, declared that the policy of the Australian National Party was to fight to the end. Australia's only chance of future safety was to destroy Germany's chance of getting bases on the Pacific Ocean adjacent to Australia.

FAMILY COINCIDENCES.

A series of remarkable coincidences is brought to light by the death of two brothers in France—Walter Maggs and Thomas Maggs, says the South London Press.

The men were left orphans at an early age, and were educated at the Printers' Orphanage. One became a printer and the other a compositor, and both worked in the same firm.

Both had good voices and frequently sang duets. They married two sisters. They were married together on Christmas Day, 1915. Went to live in adjoining flats in Brixton. Both joined the London regiment together. Went to the front together. After 21 months' fighting side by side came home on leave together in December last. Returned to the front on December 29th, and on January 19th were both killed by the same shell.

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TROPICAL AFRICA.

GENERAL SMUTS ON GERMAN COLONIZATION.

A GRANDIOSE SCHEME.

General Smuts delivered an important address on East Africa at a largely attended meeting of the Royal Geographical Society held at the Central Hall, Westminster, recently.

General Smuts said that, in economic value, German East Africa ranked very high among the tropical countries of the African continent. Probably no part of Africa had a climate and soil more suitable for the production of an immense scale of crops, such as coffee, sugar, rubber, cotton, and other tropical products, or such semi-tropical products as maize and millet. In common with the rest of Tropical Africa, its full exploitation was still retarded by the undeveloped animal and human resources, especially malaria; but the time was not far distant when science would overcome those drawbacks. In the meantime, East and Central Africa must not be looked on as an area for white colonization. Perhaps they would never be a white man's country in any real sense. But that would not make East and Central Africa less interesting or less valuable. Formerly we did not fully appreciate the value of the tropics in the economy of civilization. It was only quite recently that people had come to realize that without an abundance of the raw material which the tropics alone could supply the highly developed industries of to-day would be impossible.

POLICY OF GERMANY.

It is clear from their practice in East Africa (General Smuts continued) that the Germans had decided to develop the country not as an ordinary colony, but as a tropical possession for the cultivation of tropical raw material. They systematically discouraged white settlement. Instead, tracks of country were granted to companies, syndicates, or individuals with large capital, on condition that plantations for tropical products were cultivated. Before the war much capital had been sunk in the country in this manner, and everywhere one came across their extensive plantations. The planters were supplied with native labour under a Government system which compelled the natives to work for the planters for a very small wage during part of every year, and as native labour was thus very plentiful and cheap in this territory, with its 7½ millions of natives, the future for the capitalist syndicates seemed rosy. No wonder that under this corvée system East Africa and the Cameroons were rapidly developing into very valuable tropical assets from which in time the German Empire would have derived much of the tropical raw material for its industries.

With regard to tropical Africa, so vast an area, so great in resources, the first consideration for its exploitation was the opening up of communications. The lakes, the Nile, and the Congo formed the principal natural links in any chains of communications, and the question was how far railways had, or would, come in to complete these chains? Two railways built during the war in the Congo territory had largely extended communications from east to west and from the centre to the south. He referred to the line from Kambove to Bukama on the Congo, and those from Kabalo on the Congo to Albertville on Lake Tanganyika. Besides these through communications the Uganda Railway connected Lake Victoria Nyanza with the Indian Ocean at Mombasa, while, in the near future, Lake Nyanza would probably also be connected with the Indian Ocean at Kilwa, in German East Africa, and Port Amelia, in Portuguese East Africa. A railway was also in course of construction with Lovita Bay, on the Atlantic, to the Katanga Cooper areas, already reached from the south and east by the railways from Cape Town and Beira. It was, therefore, clear that the opening up of Central Africa eastwards, westwards, and southwards to the Indian and Atlantic oceans had proceeded rapidly.

COMMUNICATION TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. The question remained as to the communication to the Mediterranean, and the problem was how to connect Lake Albert with the Central and South African systems. Three routes were possible—one wholly Belgian, one partly British and partly Belgian, and one wholly British, any of which would connect the Cape to Cairo railway with the necessary lake and river transport wherever the Congo and Nile were practicable to steamers. It was quite probable that by one or other of these routes, through communications from South Africa to the Mediterranean might be established within the next few years. It was unnecessary to point out how great an impetus would be given to the exploitation on the vast industrial resources of Central Africa by the opening of these various communications of even some of them.

With this vital industrial aspect of tropical Africa was wrapped up the equally important political aspect, and the two in their combination were certain to make of tropical Africa one of the great problems of future world politics. It was interesting to note how rapidly the situation had changed owing to a complete change in the geographical outlook. He would put before them two contrasted points of view on colonial world politics; first the German point of view, and secondly, the British point of view. The Germans were not in search of colonies after the English model; they were not on the look-out for overseas homes for settlers from Germany. "It is clear that Germany has not the old traditional English colonial point of view," said General Smuts. "German colonial aims are really not colonial, but are entirely dominated by far-reaching conceptions of world politics. Not colonies, but military power and strategic possessions for exercising world power in future are her real aims. Her ultimate object in Africa was the establishment of a great Central African empire, comprising not only her colonies before the

war, but also all the English, French, Belgian, and Portuguese possessions south of the Sahara and Lake Chad and north of the Zambezi River in South Africa. Towards this objective she was steadily marching even before the war broke out, and she claims the return of her lost African colonies at the end of the war as a starting point from which to resume the interrupted march. Or rather, as appears from Count Hertling's recent pronouncement, they claim a re-allocation of the world's colonies, so that she may have a share commensurate with her world position.

This Central African block, the maps of which are now in course of preparation and printing at the Colonial Office in Berlin, is intended, in the first place, to supply the economic requirements and raw materials of German industry; and in the second, and far more important place, to become the recruiting ground for vast native armies, the great value of which has been demonstrated in the tropical campaign of this war, and especially in East Africa, while the natural harbours on the Atlantic and Indian Oceans would supply the naval and submarine bases from which both ocean routes would be dominated and British and American sea power would be brought to naught. The native armies will be useful in the next great war, to which the German General Staff is already devoting serious attention, as appears from the recently published book of General von Fritsch, Deputy-Chief of the German General Staff, "Deductions of the World War." The untrained lives of the young of South Africa will go down before these German-trained hordes of Africans, who will also be able to deal with North Africa and Egypt without the aid of any white troops from Germany, and they will in addition man the great army planted on the flank of Asia whose forces could be felt throughout all the Middle East as far as Persia, and who knows how much farther?

This is the grandiose scheme. It is no mere fanciful picture, but based on the writings of great German publicists, professors, and high colonial authorities, and chapter and verse could be quoted in the scheme. The civilization of the African natives and the economic development of the Dark Continent must be subordinated to the most far-reaching schemes of German world power and world conquest; the world must be brought in subjection to German militarism, and as in former centuries, so, indeed, again, the African native must play his part in the new slavery.

THE BRITISH POINT OF VIEW.

The point of view of the British Empire, remarked General Smuts, was very different indeed. In the first place, it never had any military ambitions apart from the measure of sea power essential to its continued existence. In Africa, it had never militarized the natives, and had always opposed any such policy. Indeed, no impartial person could deny that, so far from exploiting the natives, either for military or industrial purposes, British policy had, on the whole, been a very long stretch of years had a tender regard for native interests, and its results, had on the whole been beneficial to the natives in their gradual civilization.

In shaping this wise policy British statesmen had had a very long and wide African experience to guide them; and in consequence they had avoided the very dangerous and dubious policies which the German newcomers had set in motion, and among these not the least dangerous was to regard the native primarily as raw material to be manufactured into military power and world power.

In the second place, the objects pursued by British policy on the African continent were inherently pacific and defensive. We desired no man's territory, and only to live in peace and develop the great African territories and populations entrusted to our care. The British Empire was far and away the greatest African Power, and no other Power had interests on that continent at all comparable with it. And looking at the future from the broadest points of view, looking at the magnitude of its Imperial African interests and the future welfare of the vast native populations, and its difficult task of civilizing the Dark Continent; looking, further, upon Africa as the half-way house to India and Australasia, the British Empire asked only for peace and security—internal peace and security of its external communications. It could not allow the return of conditions which meant the militarization of the natives and their employment for schemes of world power; it could not allow naval and submarine bases to be organized on both sides of the African coast to the endangerment of the peace of the world. And it must insist on the maintenance of conditions which would guarantee land communications from its territories from one end of the continent to the other. The British Empire was not a compact territorial entity; it was scattered over the globe and entirely dependent upon the maintenance of communication for its continued existence. And in future these lines of communications should proceed not only by sea, but by land.

One of the most impressive lessons of this vast war was the vulnerability of sea power and sea communications through the development of under-water transport, and the immense importance of a really effective, the two should go hand-in-hand. Nor were we at the end of the chapter in discovering new means of transportation. It was not only conceivable, but probable, that aerial navigation might revolutionize the present situation beyond anything dreamed of to-day. And all these considerations pointed to the necessity of our exercising wise forethought for the future, and securing the legitimate means of the Empire by every possible means.

THE GERMAN COLONIES. "I do not wish to say anything to-night," General Smuts concluded, "about the disposal of East Africa, or other German colonies after the war. The Prime Minister has spoken on this subject for the Government, and I have nothing to add except this general consideration—as long as there is no real change of heart in Germany, and no final and

(Continued at foot of next column.)

"A WAY THEY HAVE IN THE ARMY."

[COMMUNICATED BY A MILITARY MAN TO THE PRESS.]

Never since I assumed his Majesty's uniform, I regret to say, has Emmeline taken me at all seriously.

She started off by inquiring why I needed uniform, seeing I had only given up my office seat in the City for an office seat in another place.

"Surely you could do your work in ordinary clothes," she said. "Do you really need leather gaiters to impress flappers with? And those funny little coloured bits on your coat-collar? I thought uniforms were only for fighting soldiers."

"That shows how little you know about it," I said severely.

"Yes," she replied thoughtfully, "it does."

All along she has taken this tone, and lately she has hit upon a method of annoyance which irritates me very much.

In the Army we have, as you doubtless know, a habit of referring both to persons and things by initial letters. It is a useful habit. It saves time, and it provides us with a kind of code which may often prevent outsiders from knowing what we are talking about. I fell into the way of referring at home to the D.I.D. and to M.I. and to D.A.Q.M.G., and so on. I used to explain to Emmeline what they meant, and I thought she seemed rather impressed.

But one morning just as I was leaving our flat I remarked upon the muddy state of the stair-carpet, and Emmeline at once said, "I'll speak to H.P. about it."

I frowned and looked at her for an explanation.

"Oh, didn't you know?" she said. "H.P. stands for the Hall Porter. If I can't get him I'll put the D.A.C. on to it—the Deputy-Assistant Charwoman, you know. Bye-bye."

I had something rather cutting to say just coming into my mind, but Emmeline whisked in and shut the door before it matured.

This was the beginning of a series of such foolish pleasantries. Emmeline and her sisters used to employ a code of the kind among themselves. For instance, if friends came unexpectedly to luncheon or dinner, and there was not quite enough of some dish to go round, one would say, "F.H.B.," which means "Family, hold back," and then another might reply, "P.I.P.," which stood for "Plenty in Pantry." Now I have to endure this kind of thing every day.

"I shall have to speak to the G.W.B.M.," Emmeline said at breakfast this morning, looking into the milk jug. I went on munching toast. "Don't you want to know who that is?" she went on. "I always look an interest in your old fancies."

"Well, who is it?" I mumbled.

"The Girl who Brings the Milk," of course," she told me triumphantly. "I'm sure it isn't as creamy as it ought to be. Perhaps, though," she reflected, "I'd better go straight to the V.L.F."

"You'd never guess that," she added mischievously. "It's the Vendor of Lactated Fluid."

"Enough of this fooling," I said with dignity, as I rose and drew myself up to my full height.

"E.T.F.," murmured Emmeline. "Rather a good one, that. I must remember it."

"I shall dine out," I told her coldly.

"All right," she said, "so shall I. There's only the R.C.M. Got it? Remains of the Cold Mutton, and the D.C.R. says he won't have any more this week. Director of the Cereals Repository," she added sweetly.

I left the room hastily.

A little later, when I left the flat without seeing Emmeline again, she called to me as I went down the stairs.

"Pity your S.H. isn't a little stronger."

I wonder what she can have meant by that.

Irrevocable break with militarism, the law of self-preservation must be considered paramount. No fresh extension of Prussian militarism to other continents and seas should be tolerated; and the conquered German colonies can only be regarded as guarantees, as securities for the future peace of the world. This opinion will be shared, I feel sure, by the vast bulk of the young nations who form the Dominions of the British Empire. They have no military aims or ambitions. Their tasks are solely the tasks of peace; their greatest interest and their aim is peace. Voluntarily they joined in this war, and to their effort is largely due the destruction of the German Colonial Empire, and consequent prevention of the German military system being spread to the ends of the earth. They should not be asked to consent to the restoration to a militant Germany to fresh footholds for militarism in the southern hemisphere, and thus endanger the future of their young and rising communities who are developing the waste spaces of the earth. They want a new Monroe Doctrine for the South, as there has been a Monroe Doctrine for the West, to protect it against European militarism. Behind the sheltering wall of such a doctrine they promised to build up a new, peaceful world, not only for themselves, but for the many millions of black folk entrusted to their care.

The enemy's stubborn defence of his last Colony has not only been a great feat in itself, but it is also a proof of the supreme importance attached by the German Government to this foreign Colony, both as an economic asset and as a strategic point of departure for the establishment of the future Central African Empire to which I have referred. The premature or unwise restoration of German East Africa to its former owners might, therefore, have consequences reaching far beyond the confines of the African continent. It is not difficult to foresee that the East African campaign, while apparently a minor side-show in the great world war, may yet have important bearings upon the future of the world. At the conclusion of peace, our statesmen will be bound to bear in mind these wider and deeper issues, fraught with such consequences to the world and to the British Empire in particular.

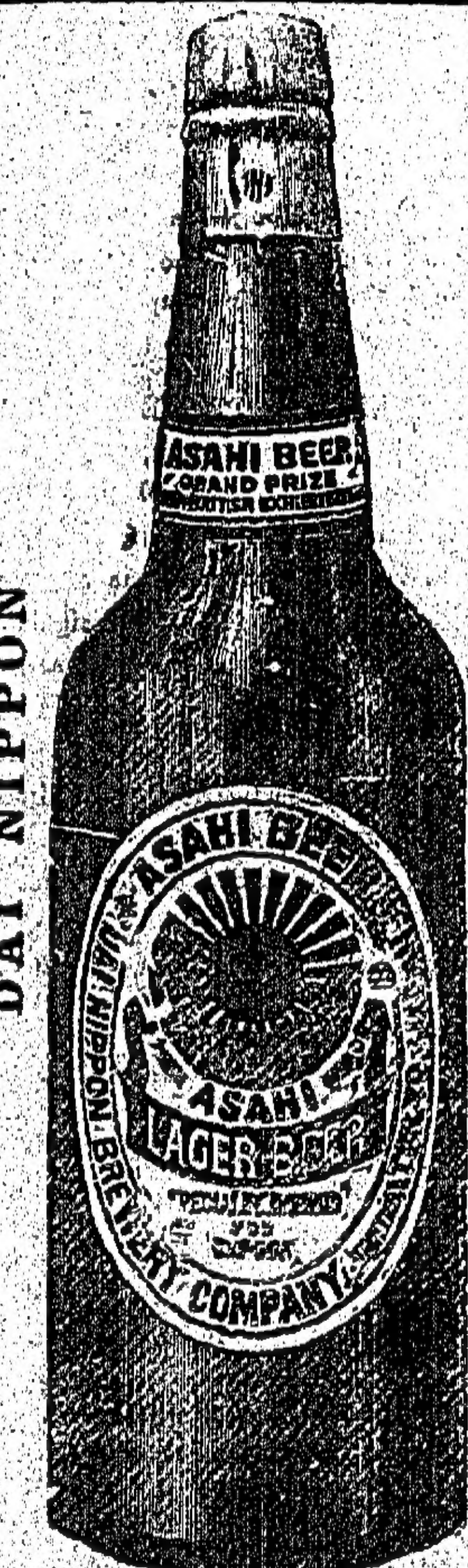
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THE MENACE OF INDIGESTION

to the "Gastric Health" should neither be ignored nor treated lightly. It is always wise to regard indigestion as a serious menace, for this is, most undoubtedly, the most common of all ailments. Do not therefore dismiss a stomach ailment with the words, "It is only indigestion." Think of what it might lead to. For it happens that neglect of this ailment in some cases has serious results. A simple remedy—yet one which has been proved times out of number for many years past to be safe and sure—is Bechman's Pills. This popular medicine should always be taken as soon as any symptoms of digestive derangement make their appearance. The signs are well known. They include: biliousness, constipation, flatulence, headache, falling appetite and other familiar forms of indigestion. Be prompt to deal with such troubles. Do not allow them to gain a hold upon you. Remember that these symptoms do really matter. Adopt the best defensive measures against the menace of indigestion to Good Health by taking

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THE CAMBRAI BATTLES. CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY OF ENGLISH TROOPS.

"VERY NEAR TO A SUCCESS."

SIR DOUGLAS HAIG'S REPORT.

Sir Douglas Haig's despatch dealing with the operations on the Cambrai Front during November and December, the period which included what was frequently referred to in Parliamentary debates as the "breakdown," contains the following passages:—

As pointed out in my last despatch, the object of these operations was to gain a local success by a sudden attack at a point where the enemy did not expect it. Our repeated attacks in Flanders and those of our Allies elsewhere had brought about large concentrations of the enemy's forces on the threatened fronts, with a consequent reduction in the garrisons of certain other sectors of his line. Of these weakened sectors the Cambrai front had been selected as the most suitable for the surprise operation in contemplation. The ground there was, on the whole, favourable for the employment of tanks, which were to play an important part in the enterprise, and facilities existed for the concentration of necessary preparations for the attack. If, after breaking through the German defence systems on this front, we could secure Bourlon to the north, and establish a good flank position to the east, in the direction of Cambrai, we should be well placed to exploit the situation locally between Bourlon and the Senece River and to the north-west. The capture of Cambrai itself was subsidiary to this operation, the object of our advance towards that town being primarily to cover our flank and puzzle the enemy regarding our intentions. The enemy was laying out fresh lines of defence behind those which he had already completed on the Cambrai front; and it was to be expected that his troops would be redistributed as soon as our pressure in Flanders was relaxed. He had already brought large forces from Russia in exchange for divisions exhausted in the struggle in the Western theatre, and it was practically certain that heavy reinforcements would be brought from East to West during the winter. Moreover, his tired divisions, after a winter's rest, would recover their efficiency.

For all these reasons, if the existing opportunity for a surprise attack were allowed to lapse, it would probably be many months before an equally favourable one would again offer itself. Furthermore, having regard to the future, it was desirable to show the enemy that he could not with impunity reduce his garrisons beyond a certain point without incurring grave risks. Against these arguments in favour of immediate action I had to weigh the fact that my own troops had been engaged, for many months, in heavy fighting, and that, though their efforts had been uniformly successful, the conditions of the struggle had greatly taxed their strength. Only part of the losses in my divisions had been replaced, and many recently arrived drafts, still far from being fully trained, were included in the ranks of the Armies. Under these conditions it was a serious matter to make a further heavy call on my troops at the end of such a strenuous year. On the other hand, from the nature of the operation, the size of the force which could be employed was bound, in any case, to be comparatively small, since success depended so much on secrecy, and it is impossible to keep secret the concentration of very large forces. The demand made upon my resources, therefore, should not be a great one.

While considering these different factors, preparations were quietly carried on, so that all might be ready for the attack, if I found it possible to carry it out. The success of the enemy's offensive in Italy subsequently added great force to the arguments in favour of undertaking the operation, although the means at my disposal for the purpose were further reduced as a consequence of the Italian situation. I decided, that, despite the various limiting factors, I could master enough force to make a first success sufficiently sure to justify undertaking the attack, but that the degree to which this success could be followed up must depend on circumstances. It was calculated that, provided secrecy could be maintained to the last moment, no large hostile reinforcements were likely to reach the scene of action for forty-eight hours after the commencement of the attack. I informed General the Hon. Sir Julian Byng, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., M.V.O., to whom the execution of the plans in connection with the Cambrai operations was entrusted, that that advance would be stopped by me after that time, or sooner if necessary unless the results then gained and the general situation justified its continuance.

The general plan of attack was to dispense with previous artillery preparation, and to depend instead on tanks to smash through the enemy's wire, of which there was a great quantity protecting his trenches. As soon as the advance of the tanks and infantry, working in close co-operation, began, the artillery was to assist with counter-battery and barrage work; but no previous registration of guns for this purpose could be permitted, as it would rouse the enemy's suspicions. The artillery of our new Armies was therefore necessarily subjected to a severe test in this operation, and proved itself entirely worthy of the confidence placed in it. The infantry, tanks, and artillery thus working in combination were to endeavour to break through all the enemy's lines of defence on the first day. If this were successfully accomplished, the situation developed favourably, cavalry were then to be passed through to raid the enemy's communications, disorganise his system of command, damage his railways, and interfere as much as possible with the arrival of his reinforcements. It was explained to all commanders that everything depended on secrecy up to the moment of starting, and after that on

bold, determined, and rapid action. Unless opposition could be beaten down quickly, no great results could be looked for.

The Commander-in-Chief of the French Armies, to whom I secretly communicated my plans, most readily agreed to afford me every assistance. In addition to the steps taken by him to engage the enemy's attention elsewhere, he arranged for a strong force of French infantry and cavalry to be in a position whence they could be moved forward rapidly to take part in the exploitation of our success, if the situation should render it possible to bring them into action. On Nov. 20th certain of these French units were actually put in motion. The course of events, however, did not open out the required opportunity for their employment, but the French forces were held in readiness and within easy reach so long as there appeared to be any hope of it. Had the situation on Nov. 20th developed somewhat more favourably in certain directions, the nature of which will be made apparent in the course of this report, the presence and co-operation of these French troops would have been of the greatest value.

ENEMY'S DEFENCES.

The German defences on this front had been greatly improved and extended since the opening of our offensive in April, and comprised three main systems of resistance. The first of these three trench systems, constituting part of the Hindenburg line proper, ran in a general north-westerly direction for a distance of six miles from the Canal du Escout at Banteux to Havrincourt. There it turned abruptly north along the line of the Canal du Nord for a distance of four miles to Meuvres, thus forming a pronounced salient in the German front. In advance of the Hindenburg line the enemy had constructed a series of strong forward positions, including La Vaquequerie and the north-eastern corner of Havrincourt Wood. Behind it, and at distances respectively varying from a little less to rather more than a mile, and from 3½ to 4½ miles, lay the second and third main German systems, known as the Hindenburg reserve line, and the Beuvrevoir, Masnières, Marquion lines.

THE ATTACK.

All necessary preparations were completed in time, and with a secrecy reflecting the greatest credit on all concerned. At 6.20 a.m. on Nov. 20th, without any previous artillery bombardment, tanks and infantry attacked on a front of about six miles from east of Gonnelieu to the Canal du Nord opposite Hermies. At the same hour, demonstrations with gas, smoke, and artillery took place on practically the whole of the British front south of the Scarpe, and subsidiary attacks were launched east of Epéhy and between Bullecourt and Fontaine-lez-Croisilles. On the principal front of attacks, the tanks moved forward in advance of the infantry, crushing down the enemy's wire and forming great lanes through which our infantry could pass. Protected by smoke barrages from the view of the enemy's artillery, they rolled on across the German trenches, smashing up the enemy's machine-guns and driving his infantry to ground close behind our tanks. Our own infantry followed, and, while the tanks patrolled the line of hostile trenches, cleared the German infantry from their dug-outs and shelters. In this way, both the main system of the Hindenburg line and its outer defence were rapidly overrun, and tanks and infantry proceeded in accordance with programme to the attack upon the Hindenburg reserve line.

At the end of the first day of the attack, three German systems of defence had been broken through to a depth of some four and a half miles on a wide front, and over 3,000 prisoners had already been brought in. But for the wrecking of the bridge at Masnières and the check at Flequiers still greater results might have been attained. On the morning of Nov. 21st the attack on Flequiers was resumed, and, at eight a.m. the village had been turned from the north-west and captured. The obstacle which more than anything else had limited the results of Nov. 20th was thereby removed, and later in the morning the advance once more became general.

The forty-eight hours after which it had been calculated that the enemy's reserves would begin to arrive had in effect expired, and the high ground at Bourlon village and wood, as well as certain important tactical features to the east and west of the wood, still remained in the enemy's possession. It now became necessary to decide whether to continue the operation offensively or to take up a defensive attitude and rest content with what had been attained.

DECISION TO GO ON.

It was not possible, however, to let matters stand as they were. The positions captured by us north of Flequiers were completely surrounded by the Bourlon Ridge, and unless these were gained it would be impossible to hold them against an offensive. If I decided not to go on a withdrawal to the Flequiers Ridge would be necessary, and would have to be carried out at once. On the other hand, the enemy showed certain signs of an intention to withdraw. Craters had been formed at road junctions, and troops could be seen ready to move east. The possession of Bourlon Ridge would enable our troops to obtain observation over the ground to the north, which sloped gently down to the Senece River. The enemy's defensive lines south of the Scarpe and Senece River would thereby be turned, his communications exposed to the observed fire of our artillery, and his positions in this sector jeopardised. In short, so great was the importance of the ridge to the enemy that its loss would probably cause the abandonment by the Germans of their carefully prepared defence systems for a considerable distance to the north of it. The successive days of constant marching and fighting had placed a very severe strain upon the endurance of the troops, and before a further advance could be undertaken, some time would have to be spent in resting and relieving them. This need for delay was regrettable, as the enemy's divisions were increasing, and fresh German divisions were known to be arriving, but with the limited number of troops at my command, it was unavoidable.

It was to be remembered, however, that the hostile reinforcements coming up at this stage could at first be no more than enough to replace the enemy's losses; and although the right of our advance had

definitely been stayed, the enemy had not yet developed such strength about Bourlon as it seemed might not be overcome by a few numbers at my disposal. As has already been pointed out, on the Cambrai side of the battlefield I had only aimed at securing a defensive flank to enable the advance to be pushed northwards, and north-westwards, and this part of my task had been to a large extent achieved. An additional and very important argument in favour of proceeding with my attack was supplied by the situation in Italy, upon which a continuance of pressure on the Cambrai front might reasonably be expected to exercise an important effect, no matter what measure of success attended my efforts. Moreover, two divisions previously under orders for Italy had, and this day being placed at my disposal, and with this accession of strength the prospect of securing Bourlon seemed good. After weighing these various considerations, therefore, I decided to continue the operations to gain the Bourlon position.

November 22nd was spent in organising the captured ground, in carrying out certain reliefs, and in giving other troops the rest they greatly needed. Soon after mid-day the enemy regained Fontaine-lez-Croisilles, but, with our troops already on the outskirts of Bourlon Wood, and Cantaining held by us, it was thought that the recapture of Fontaine-lez-Croisilles would prove very difficult. The necessary arrangements for renewing the attack were therefore pushed on, and our plans were extended to include the recapture of Fontaine-lez-Croisilles. Meanwhile, early in the night of November 22nd, a battalion of the Queen's Westminster stormed a commanding tactical point in the Hindenburg Line west of Meuvres known as Tadpole Copse, the possession of which was of value in connection with the left flank of the Bourlon position when the latter had been secured.

STRUGGLE FOR BOURLON RIDGE.

At 10.30 a.m. on the morning of November 23rd, the 40th Division attacked Bourlon Wood, and after four and a half hours of hard fighting, in which the enemy rendered valuable assistance to our infantry, captured the whole of the wood and entered Bourlon village. Here hostile counter-attacks prevented our further progress, and though the village was at one time reported to have been taken by us, this proved later to be erroneous. This struggle for Bourlon resulted in several days of fiercely-contested fighting, in which English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish battalions, together with dismounted cavalry, performed most gallant service, and inflicted heavy loss on the enemy.

During the afternoon of November 24th, our infantry again attacked Bourlon village, and captured the whole of it. Later in the evening a fourth attack upon our positions in the wood was beaten off after fierce fighting. Further progress was made on this day in the Hindenburg Line west of Meuvres, but the enemy's resistance in the whole of the neighbourhood of Bourlon was so strong, that on the evening of November 25th a fresh attack by the enemy retained Bourlon Village, though our troops offered vigorous resistance, and parties of the 13th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, held out in the south-east corner of the village until touch was established with them two days later. The continual fighting and the strength of the enemy's attacks, however, had told heavily on the 40th Division, which, by the evening of November 25th, was accordingly withdrawn, and on the following day our troops were again pressed back slightly in the northern outskirts of Bourlon Wood.

With the enemy in possession of the ridge above Fontaine-lez-Croisilles, as well as of part of the high ground west of Bourlon Wood, our position in the wood itself was a difficult one, and much of the ground to the south of it was still exposed to the enemy's observation. I decided, therefore, to make another effort on November 27th to capture Fontaine-lez-Croisilles and Bourlon Village, and to gain possession of the whole of the Bourlon Ridge. In this attack, in which tanks co-operated, British Guards temporarily regained possession of Fontaine-lez-Croisilles, taking some hundreds of prisoners, and troops of the 52nd Division once more entered Bourlon Village. Later in the morning, however, heavy counter-attacks developed in both localities, and our troops were unable to maintain the ground they had gained. During the afternoon the enemy also attacked our positions at Tadpole Copse, but was repulsed. As the result of five days of constant fighting, therefore, we held a strong position on the Bourlon Hill and in the wood, but had not yet succeeded in gaining all the ground required for the security of this important position. The two following days passed comparatively quietly, while the troops engaged were relieved and steps were undertaken to prepare for a deliberate attack which might give us the tactical points we sought. Meanwhile, on other parts of the front the organisation of our new positions was proceeding as rapidly as conditions would allow.

GERMAN ATTACK—EARLY WARNINGS.

During the last days of November increased registration of hostile artillery, the movements of troops and transport observed behind the German lines, together with other indications of a like nature, pointed to further efforts by the enemy to regain the positions we had wrested from him. The front effected by this increased activity included that of our advance, as well as the ground to Vendhuile and beyond. The massing of the enemy's infantry, however, his obvious anxiety concerning the security of his defences south of the Senece River, the tactical importance of the high ground about Bourlon, and the fact that we were still only in partial possession of it, all pointed to the principal attack being delivered in the Bourlon sector.

DISPOSITIONS FOR DEFENCE.

Measures were accordingly taken, both by the Third Army and by the lower formations concerned, to prepare for eventualities. Arrangements had been made after our last attack to relieve the troops holding the Bourlon positions by such fresh divisions as were available, and when these reliefs had been satisfactorily completed, I felt confident that the defence of this sector could be considered secure. Covering our right flank from Cantaining to the Banteux Ravine, a distance of about 1,000 yards, five British divisions were disposed, and, though these had been fighting for several days and were consequently tired, I felt confident that they would prove equal to stopping any attack the enemy could

make on them. From the Banteux Ravine southwards the divisions in line were weak and held very extended fronts. On the other hand, the line held by us in this southern sector had been in our possession for some months. Its defences were for this reason more complete, and better organised than those of the ground gained by us in our attack. Moreover, the capture of the Bonavis Ridge had added to the security of our position further south.

After describing the preparations made to meet an attack, Sir Douglas Haig continues:—Between the hours of seven and eight a.m. on the last day of November the enemy attacked, after a short but intense artillery preparation, on the greater part of a front of some ten miles from Vendhuile to Masnières inclusive. From Masnières to Banteux, both inclusive, four German divisions would seem to have been employed against the three British divisions holding this area. Between Banteux, exclusive, and Vendhuile one German division and portions of two others were employed against the northern half of the British division holding that front. On the Masnières front the 29th Division, composed of English, Scottish, Welsh, Irish, Guernsey, and New Brunswick battalions, although seriously threatened as the day wore on by the progress made by the enemy further south, where their battery positions had been taken in reverse, most gallantly beat off a succession of powerful assaults, and maintained their line intact. At the northern end of the Bonavis Ridge and in the Gonnelieu sector the swiftness with which the advance of the enemy's infantry followed the opening of his bombardment was somewhat unexpected, and our troops, both in line and in immediate support, almost before they had realised that the attack had begun.

The nature of the bombardment, which seems to have been heavy enough to keep our men under cover without at first seriously alarming them, contributed to the success of the enemy's plans. No steadily advancing barrage gave warning of the approach of the German assault columns, whose secret assembly was assisted by the many deep dells and hollows typical of a chalk formation, and shielded from observation from the air by an early morning mist. Only when the attack was upon them a great number of low-flying German aeroplanes rained machine-gun fire upon our infantry, while an extensive use of smoke shell and bombs made it extremely difficult for our troops to see what was happening on other parts of the battlefield, or to follow the movements of the enemy. In short, there is little doubt that, although an attack was expected generally, yet in these areas of the battle at the moment of delivery the assault effected a local surprise.

None the less, stubborn resistance was offered during the morning by isolated parties of our troops and by machine-gun detachments in the neighbourhood of Bourlon Wood and south-east of La Vaquequerie, as well as at other points. In more than one instance heavy losses are known to have been inflicted on the enemy by machine-gun fire at short range. North-east of La Vaquequerie the 52nd Field Artillery Brigade repulsed four attacks, in some of which the enemy's infantry approached to within 200 yards of our guns before the surviving gunners were finally compelled to withdraw, after having broken the breech-blocks from their pieces. East of Villers Guislain the troops holding our forward positions on the high ground were still offering a strenuous resistance to the enemy's attacks on their front at a time when large forces of German infantry had already advanced up the valley between them and Villers Guislain. South of this village a single point known as Limerick Post, garrisoned by troops of the 15th Battalion (King's Own), Royal Lancaster Regiment, and the 10th Battalion, Liverpool Regiment, held out with great gallantry throughout the day, though heavily attacked. The progress made by the enemy, however, across the northern end of the Bonavis Ridge and up the deep gully between Villers Guislain and Gonnelieu known as 22 Ravine, turned our positions on the ridge as well as in both villages. Taken in flank and rear, the defences of Villers Guislain, Gonnelieu, and Bonavis were rapidly overrun. Gonnelieu was captured about nine a.m., the outer defences of La Vaquequerie were reached, and a number of guns which had been brought up close to the line in order to enable them to cover the battle front about Masnières and Marquion fell into the hands of the enemy. At this point the enemy's advance was checked by the action of our local reserves, and meanwhile measures had been taken to bring the 10th and 11th Divisions, and other troops, about midday, to come into action west of Gonnelieu, and while cavalry moved up to close the gap on their right and made progress towards Villers Guislain from the south and south-west.

The attack of the Guards, which was delivered with the greatest gallantry and resolution, drove the enemy out of Gonnelieu and made progress on the high ground known as the St. Quentin Ridge, east of the village. In this operation the Guards were materially assisted by the gallant action of a party of the 29th Division, who, with a company of North Midland Royal Engineers, held on throughout the day to a position in an old trench near Gonnelieu. Valuable work was also done by a brigade of field artillery of the 47th Division, which moved direct into action from the line of march. During the afternoon they received news of the attack were preparing to move away from the battlefield to re-attack, arrived at Gonnelieu, and aided the infantry to hold the recaptured ground. Great credit is due to the officers and men of the Tank Brigade concerned for the speed with which they brought their tanks into action. Meanwhile, the defence of La Vaquequerie had been successfully maintained, and our line had been established to the north of that village, in touch with our troops in Masnières.

Wonderful defence of English troops. In the northern area, from Fontaine-lez-Croisilles to Tadpole Copse, the German attack was not launched until some two hours later. This was the enemy's main attack, and was carried out with large forces and great resolution. After a heavy preliminary bombardment, and covered by an artillery barrage, the enemy's infantry advanced shortly after nine a.m. in dense waves, in the manner of his attacks in the first battle of Ypres.

In the course of the morning and afternoon no less than five principal attacks were made in this area, and on one portion of the attack as many as eleven waves of German infantry advanced successively to the assault. On the whole of this front a resolute endeavour was made to break down by sheer weight of numbers the defence of the London, territorial and other English battalions holding the sector. In this fighting the 47th (London) Division (T.), the 2nd Division, and the 16th (London) Division (T.) greatly distinguished themselves, and there were accomplished many deeds of great heroism.

Under the fury of the enemy's bombardment a company of the 17th Battalion Royal Fusiliers were in the course of being withdrawn from an exposed position in a sap head in advance of our line between Bourlon Wood and Meuvres, when the German attack burst upon them. The officer in command sent three of his platoons back, and, with a rear-guard composed of a remainder of his company, held off the enemy's attack until the main position had been organised. Having faithfully accomplished their task, this rear-guard died fighting to the end, with their faces to the enemy. Somewhat later in the morning an attack in force between the Canal du Nord and Meuvres broke into our foremost positions, and isolated a company of the 13th Battalion Essex Regiment in a trench just west of the village. After maintaining a splendid and successful resistance throughout the day, whereby the pressure upon our main line was greatly relieved, at four p.m. this company held a council of war, at which the two remaining company officers, the company sergeant-major, and the platoon sergeants were present, and unanimously determined to fight to the last and have "no surrender." Two runners who were sent to notify this decision to Battalion Headquarters, succeeded in getting through to our lines and delivered their message. During the remainder of the afternoon and far into the following night this gallant company were heard fighting, and there is little room for doubt that they carried out to a man their heroic resolution.

Early in the afternoon large masses of the enemy again attacked west of Bourlon Wood, and though beaten off with great loss at most points succeeded in overwhelming three out of a line of posts held by a company of the 1st Battalion Royal Berks Regiment, on the right of the 2nd Division. Though repeatedly attacked by vastly superior numbers, the remainder of these posts stood firm, and when, two days later, the three posts which had been overpowered were regained such a heap of German dead lay in and around them that the bodies of our own men were hidden. All accounts go to show that the enemy's losses in the whole of his constantly repeated attacks on this sector of the battle front were enormous. One battery of eight machine-guns fired 70,000 rounds of ammunition into ten successive waves of Germans. Long lines of attacking infantry were caught by our machine-gun fire in the flank, and were shot down in line as they advanced. Great exertion was done by our field artillery, and in the course of the battle guns were brought up to the crest line and fired direct upon the enemy at short range. At one point west of Bourlon the momentum of his first advance carried the enemy through our front line and in short way down the southern slopes of the ridge. There, however, the German masses came under direct fire from our field artillery at short range, and were broken up. Our local reserves at once counter-attacked, and succeeded in closing the gap that had been made in our line. Early in the afternoon the enemy again forced his way into our foremost position in this locality, opening a gap between the 16th Battalion and the 15th Battalion London Regiment. Counter-attacks, led by the two battalion commanders, with all available men, including the reserve of their headquarters, once more restored the situation. All other attacks were beaten off with the heaviest losses to the enemy. The greatest credit is due to the troops at Masnières, Bourlon, and Meuvres for the very gallant service performed by them on this day. But for their steady courage and staunchness in defence, the success gained by the enemy on the right of our battle front might have had serious consequences.

FIGHTING AT GONNELIEU AND MASNIÈRES. On December 1st fighting continued fiercely on the whole front. The Guards completed the capture of the St. Quentin Ridge and entered Gonnelieu, where they captured over 350 prisoners and a large number of machine guns. Tanks took an effective part in the fighting for the ridge.

Severe fighting took place also at Masnières. During the afternoon and evening at least nine separate attacks were beaten off by the 29th Division on this front, and other hostile attacks were repulsed in the neighbourhood of Marquion, Fontaine-lez-Croisilles, and Bourlon. With the Bonavis Ridge in the enemy's hands, however, Masnières was exposed to attack on three sides, and on the right of December 1st our troops were withdrawn under orders to a line west of the village. On the afternoon of December 2nd a series of heavy attacks developed against Welsh Ridge, in the neighbourhood of La Vaquequerie, and further assaults were made on our positions in the neighbourhood of Masnières and Bourlon. These attacks were broken in succession by our machine-gun fire, but the enemy persisted in the attempts against Welsh Ridge and gradually gained ground. By nightfall our line had been pushed back to a position just north of the village. Next day the enemy renewed his attacks in great force on the whole front from Gonnelieu to Marquion, and ultimately gained possession of La Vaquequerie. North of La Vaquequerie repeated attacks made about Masnières and Marquion were repulsed in severe fighting, but the positions still retained by us beyond the Canal du Escout were extremely exposed, and during the night our troops were withdrawn under orders to the west banks of the canal.

WITHDRAWAL FROM BOURLON.

By this time the enemy had evidently become exhausted by the efforts he had made and the severity of his losses, and December 4th passed comparatively quietly. For some days, however, local fighting continued in the neighbourhood of La Vaquequerie, and his attitude remained aggressive. Local attacks in this

sector were repulsed on December 5th, and on this and the following two days further fierce fighting took place, in which the enemy again endeavoured without success to drive us from our positions on Welsh Ridge. The strength which the enemy had shown himself able to develop in his attacks made it evident that only by prolonged and severe fighting could I hope to re-establish my right flank on the Bonavis Ridge. Unless this was done, the situation of my troops in the salient north of Flequiers would be difficult and dangerous, even if our hold on Bourlon Hill were extended. I had, therefore, to decide either to embark on another offensive battle on a large scale, or to withdraw to a more compact line on the Flequiers Ridge. Although this decision involved giving up important positions most gallantly won, I had no doubt as to the correct course under the conditions. Accordingly, on the night of December 4-5 the evacuation of the positions held by us north of the Flequiers Ridge was commenced. On the morning of December 7th this withdrawal was completed successfully without interference from the enemy.

Before withdrawing the more important of the enemy's field defences were destroyed, and those of his guns which were not destroyed were removed to places where they would be of no use. The enemy did not discover our withdrawal for some time, and when, on the afternoon of December 5th, he began to feel his way forward, he did so with great caution. In spite of his care, on more than one occasion bodies of his infantry were caught in the open by our artillery. Much skill and courage were shown by our covering troops in this withdrawal, and an incident which occurred on the afternoon of December 6th in the neighbourhood of Graincourt deserves special notice. A covering party, consisting of two companies of the 11th Battalion, London Regiment, 4th Division, much reduced in strength by the fighting at Bourlon Wood, found their flank exposed by a hostile attack farther east, and were enveloped and practically cut off. These companies successfully cut their way through to our advanced line of resistance, where they arrived in good order, after having inflicted serious casualties on the enemy.

The new line taken up by us corresponds roughly to the old Hindenburg Reserve Line, and runs from a point about one and a half miles north by east of La Vaquequerie, north of Ribecourt, and Flequiers to the Canal du Nord about one and a half mile north of Havrincourt—i.e., between two and two and a half miles in front of the line held by us prior to the attack of November 20th. We therefore retained in our possession an important section of the Hindenburg trench system, with its excellent dug-outs and other advantages.

RESULTS OF THE BATTLE.

The material results of the three weeks' fighting described above can be stated in general terms very shortly. We had captured and retained in our possession over 12,000 yards of the former German front line from La Vaquequerie to a point opposite Bourlon, together with between 10,000 and 11,000 yards of the Hindenburg Line and Hindenburg Reserve Line and the villages of Ribecourt, Flequiers and Havrincourt. A total of 145 German guns were taken or destroyed by us in the course of the operations, and 11,600 German prisoners were captured. On the other hand, the enemy had occupied an unimportant section of our front line between Vendhuile and Gonnelieu.

There is little doubt that our operations were of considerable indirect assistance to the Allied forces in Italy.

In view of the strength of the German forces on the front of my attack, and the success with which secrecy was maintained during our preparations, I had calculated that the enemy's prepared defences would be captured in the first rush. I had good hope that his resisting power behind those defences would then be so enfeebled for a period that we should be able on the same day to establish ourselves quickly and completely on the dominating Bourlon Ridge from Fontaine-lez-Croisilles to Meuvres, and to secure our right flank along a line including the Bonavis Ridge, Crevecoeur, and Rumilly to Fontaine-lez-Croisilles. Even if this did not prove possible within the first twenty-four hours, a second day would be at our disposal before the enemy's reserves could begin to arrive in any formidable numbers. Meanwhile, with no wire and no prepared defences to hamper them, it was reasonable to hope that masses of cavalry would find it possible to pass through, whose task would be thoroughly to disorganise the enemy's systems of command and inter-communication in the whole area between the Canal du Escout, the River Senece, and the Canal du Nord, as well as to the east and north-east of Cambrai.

My intentions as regards subsequent exploitation were to push westward and north-westward, taking the Hindenburg Line in reverse from Meuvres to the River Scarpe, and capturing all the enemy's defences and probably most of his garrisons lying west of a line from Cambrai northwards to the Senece and south of that river and the Scarpe. Time would have been required to enable us to develop and complete the operation, but the prospects of gaining the necessary time, by the use of cavalry in the manner outlined above, were, in my opinion, good enough to justify the attempt to execute the plan. I am of opinion that on November 20th and 21st we were very near to a success sufficient to bring the realisation of our full programme within our power. The reasons for my decision to continue the fight after November 21st have already been explained. Though in the event an advantage was gained thereby, I consider that, as the problem presented itself at the time, the more cautious course would have been difficult to justify. It must be remembered that we were not a question of remaining where we stood, but of advancing tactically, and of gaining with great gallantry, the retention of which was not only to be within our power, but likely even yet to lead to further suc-

INDIAN AFRICAN LINE

Cargo carried on through Bills of Lading from HONGKONG to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN (Natal), EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN with transshipment at COLOMBO to Steamers of the INDIAN AFRICAN LINE.

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Regular Direct Service from JAPAN, CHINA and STRAITS to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN, calling at MAURITIUS en route, and affording the Quickest Freight Transport from the ORIENT to SOUTH AFRICA.

For particulars of sailings shippers are requested to apply to the undersigned.

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TO
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Steamers proceed via Suez Canal or Cape of Good Hope at Owners' option.

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THE BANK LINE, LIMITED.
General Agents.

C. N. C.
CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
SHANGHAI	"KWEILIN"	On 7th May, Noon.
SWATOW and BANGKOK	"LUCHOW"	On 7th May, 4 P.M.
SWATOW and SINGAPORE	"LIANGCHOW"	On 8th May, Noon.
SHANGHAI	"SUIYANG"	On 8th May, 3 P.M.
TIENSIN	"KUEICHOW"	On 11th May, Noon.
SHANGHAI	"KUEIKIANG"	On 11th May, 3 P.M.

SHANGHAI LINE—PASSENGERS, MAILS and CARGO. Excellent Saloon accommodation, Amplest Electric Light and Fans in Saloon and State-rooms. Regular schedule service between Canton, Hongkong and Shanghai, taking cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports. Passengers are landed in Shanghai, avoiding the inconvenience of transshipment at Woosung.

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BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
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DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

HONGKONG AND SOUTH CHINA COAST PORT SERVICE.

REGULAR SERVICE of Fast, High Class Coast Steamers having good accommodation for First Class Passengers, Electric Light and Fans in staterooms and Saloons and Excellent cuisine.

FOR
SWATOW, AMOY AND FOOCHEW
AND RETURN.

(Occupying 3 to 10 Days).

"HAIKONG" ... Capt. J. W. Evans ... TUESDAY, 7th May, at Noon.
"HAITAN" ... Capt. A. E. Hoagins ... FRIDAY, 10th May, at Noon.

Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near Blake Pier).

For Freight and Passage, apply to—

DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & CO.,
General Managers.

BRITISH INDIA S. N. CO., LTD.

APCAR LINE.

REGULAR SERVICE BETWEEN
CALCUTTA STRAITS, SHANGHAI AND JAPAN PORTS.

EASTWARD

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The above Steamers have excellent Saloon accommodation for Passengers and are fitted with all modern conveniences and carry a daily qualified surgeon.

For Freight or Passage apply to—
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ROYAL MAIL SERVICE

UNDER CONTRACT WITH HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT
TO

MARSEILLES AND LONDON.

TAKING PASSENGERS AND CARGO TO
STRAITS, COLOMBO, INDIA, AUSTRALASIA, EGYPT, &c.

Steamers	Leave Hong Kong	Consenting Mail	Due at Marseilles	Due at London
to	at	Str. from Colombo	1917	1917
COLOMBO	at			

When Passengers change Steamers at COLOMBO. Accommodation in the connecting Steamer from COLOMBO is definitely reserved to Hongkong at the time of Booking. On the Australian Route Tickets interchangeable with Orient Line.

SAILINGS DIRECT TO
SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

S.S.

LEAVE HONGKONG ABOUT

Passengers may travel by Railway in Japan between Ports of Call free of charge. Return Tickets are available by Messageries Maritimes Company.

INTERMEDIATE STEAMERS
(Non-Transshipment).
IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE MAIL STEAMERS,
WILL LEAVE DIRECT FOR
MARSEILLES AND LONDON,
Calling at SINGAPORE, PORT SWETTENHAM, PENANG, COLOMBO
AND PORT SAID.
CARRYING 1ST AND 2ND SALOON PASSENGERS AT REDUCED RATES.
Proposed Sailings:

STEAMERS	Leave Hong Kong	Leave SINGAPORE	Due at Marseilles	Due at London
	about	about	if sailing about	about
The Intermediate Service is Temporarily Suspended.				

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY FITTED ON ALL STEAMERS.
All Cabins are fitted with Electric Fans free of charge and each Berth furnished with an Electric Reading Lamp.
Round-the-World Tickets and Through Tickets to New York in connection with the Principal Mail Lines.
Return Tickets at fare and a half available to Europe for Two Years or to Intermediate Ports for Six Months.
Owing to the War in Europe Steamers and Sailing dates are liable to be cancelled or altered without notice.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expected of which they have received documents or advice.
Any damaged packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignees and the Company's Surveyors. Messrs. GOSNELL & DICKSON, at 19 A.M. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognized. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns.
For Further Information, Passage Rates, Freight, Handbooks, Dates of Sailing, etc., apply to

E. V. D. PAREL
Superintendent.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

(JAPAN MAIL S.S. CO.)

SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

DESTINATION	STEAMERS & DISPLACEMENT	SAILING DATES
SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	HIRANO MARU 16,000 tons. FRI. 10th May 11 A.M. YOKOHAMA MARU 12,500 tons. SUN. 12th May 11 A.M.	
NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	TANGO MARU 13,500 tons. SAT. 18th May 11 A.M. NIKKO MARU 9,800 tons. SAT. 18th June 11 A.M.	
SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE		
LONDON or LIVERPOOL via SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, DELAGOA BAY & CAPE TOWN		
MELBOURNE via MANILA, ZAMBOANGA, THURSDAY IS., TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE & SYDNEY		
NEW YORK via SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, SAN FRANCISCO & PANAMA CANAL		
BOMBAY via SINGAPORE, MALACCA & COLOMBO		
CALCUTTA via SINGAPORE, PENANG & RANGOON		

§ Omitting Shanghai and/or Moji.

• Wireless telegraphy.

HONGKONG, VICTORIA, B.C., SEATTLE

VIA

MANILA, SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, YOKKAICHI & YOKOHAMA.

Operated by the magnificent and splendidly equipped passenger steamers "FUSHIMI MARU," "SUWA MARU," "KASHIMA MARU" and "KATORI MARU," each of over 20,000 tons displacement.

NEXT SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

↑↑ SUWA MARU ... WED, 15th May, at 11 A.M.
↑↑ FUSHIMI MARU ... TUES, 11th June, at 11 A.M.
; Omitting Manila Eastbound.

For further information apply to
NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.
B. MORI Manager.

Telephone 292 and 293

TOYO KISEN KAISHA
SAN FRANCISCO LINE.

VIA SHANGHAI, INLAND SEA, JAPAN AND HONOLULU.
FAST AND LUXURIOUS MAIL STEAMERS.

Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to Change Without Notice

Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong
KOREA MARU	18,000	FRI, 24th May.
SIBERIA MARU	18,500	SAT, 6th June
TENYO MARU	22,000	SAT, 22nd June.
SEIYU MARU	22,000	TUES, 10th July.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE.

HONGKONG to VALPARAISO via JAPAN, HONOLULU, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN PEDRO, SALINO CRUZ, BALBOA, CALLAO, ARIQUA AND IQUIQUE.
THENCE BY TRANS-ANDREAN ROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES.

Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong
NIPPON MARU	11,000	May 15th.
KIYO MARU	17,800	July 12th.
ANYO MARU	18,500	Sept. 6th.

Tickets are interchangeable with the CANADIAN PACIFIC OCEAN SERVICES, LTD., and the PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.
Passengers may travel by Rail between Ports of Call in Japan free of Charge.
For full information as to rates, sailings, etc., apply to—

T. DAIGO, Manager,
King's Building.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

FRENCH MAIL LINES.

SERVICE TO AND FROM JAPAN VIA SHANGHAI.
SERVICE TO AND FROM EUROPE.

Ports of call:—Yokohama, Kobe, Shanghai, Hongkong, Saigon, Singapore, Colombo, Djibouti, Suez, Port Said, Marseilles.

ALL STEAMERS FITTED WITH WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Return Tickets to Europe available for two years.

Return Tickets to Intermediate Ports available for six months.

For full particulars regarding sailings, apply to
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O. S. K.
OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA.

REGULAR SERVICES, PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG
(SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

North American Line. FOR VICTORIA, SEATTLE AND TACOMA via SHANGHAI, MANILA, NAGASAKI, MOJI, KOBÉ, AND YOKOHAMA (TRANS-PACIFIC).

"AFRICA MARU" ... WEDDAYS, 6th June, at 3 P.M.

NORTH AMERICAN LINE—This line maintains a regular fortnightly service between Hongkong and Puget Sound ports touching at intermediate ports in Japan. Overland cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for U.S.A. and connection are made at Puget Sound ports with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE—Every three months the steamer proceeding to Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Buenos Aires, via Singapore, Mauritius, Durban and Cape Town.

AUSTRALIAN LINE—Monthly service between Japan and Adelaide, calling at Auckland, N. Z., Sydney and Melbourne.

BOMBAY LINE—Fortnightly service for Bombay calling at Singapore, and Colombo. At present this line's steamers maintain cargo only.

JAVA LINE—Monthly service for Java ports calling at Manila, Sandakan and Massawa. Booking for passengers and cargo to the ports.

FOR SAILING DATES AND FURTHER PARTICULARS REGARDING PASSENGER OR FREIGHT APPLY AT OFFICE.

FORMOSAN LINE—For Tamsui, Keelung and Anping, Tainan, via Swatow and Amoy.

"NOSHU MARU" ... THURSDAY, 9th May, at 8 A.M.
"JOSEPH MARU" ... THURSDAY, 9th May, at 8 A.M.
"KAJO MARU" ... SUNDAY, 12th May, at 10 A.M.

These Formosan Liners will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 74 will be fixed.

For FURTHER INFORMATION, apply to—

K. YAMASAKI, Manager,
No. 1, Queen's Building.

TEL. Nos 744 and 745.

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FRIGHT AND PASSENGERS
S.S. "CHINA"

WILL SAIL FROM HONGKONG FOR

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VIA SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, YOKOHAMA AND HONOLULU TO SAN FRANCISCO.
JUNE 21 and AUGUST 31, 1918.

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